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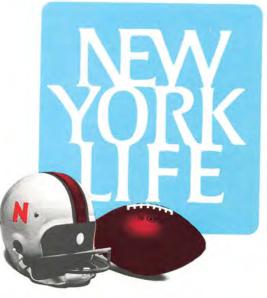
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IMPORTANT NOTICE - CURRENT SUBSCRIBERS

DEAR SUBSCRIBER:

We need your opinion! Here at Huskers Illustrated we are constantly trying to improve the magazine. We feel Huskers Illustrated is already the best University publication in the nation however we always would like to improve our product. Earlier this year we invited a group of current subscribers to our offices for a panel discussion and asked them to provide us with recommendations on how the magazine could be improved. After careful thought they recommended several changes, one of which is this 132-page pre-season annual publication.

As a valued subscriber we would like to have your opinion, also. The subscribers to Huskers Illustrated are a varied group of people from all walks of life. Some are young and others old. Some live in Nebraska and others in New York or California. Some are wealthy and others live on a fixed income. As a result of this wide variation we felt it was important to get as many opinions as possible to ensure that all subscriber's opinions have been heard.

At the bottom of this letter is a return postcard and the next page is a complete explanation of some of the changes recommended by our panel. I would consider it a personal favor if you would read the explanation page, answer the questions on the postcard and mail it to us at your convenience. Even if you can not take the time to return the card I would ask you to read the explanation page so if some changes are in fact made you will be aware of why. Thank you for your participation.

Mike Henry / Publisher

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SURVEY	QUESTIONNAIRE
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After you have read the attached explanation page please answer the following three questions:

1. If NO CHANGE is made subscription? (15 issues for \$ YES NO, Please share with us	
to 26 per year (weekly duri	are made and we increase the number of issues from 15 ng football season and twice monthly during the remain- he special annual edition for \$38.74 per year, would you criber?
NO, Please share with us	your reasons:
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k you for participating in this	very important survey

Survey Explanation

We recently held a series of panel discussions with some of our subscribers and asked them what changes, if any, could be made to improve the magazine. After extensive discussion and deliberation the subscribers recommended four changes. We would like to know if you agree that these changes would result in improvements to our present publishing program. The recommendations are:

1. PUBLISH 26 ISSUES PER YEAR RATHER THAN 15:

At present we publish 15 issues per year, every week during the football season and every other month during the remainder of the year. Our panel of subscribers felt that to receive a magazine only every other month during the off-season was too long between issues. They recommended that we publish every week during the football season and TWICE MONHTLY during the remainder of the year for a total of 26 issues. The panel felt this would keep them more thoroughly up to date on all football related stories and news while also covering the other sports.

2. BIGGER ISSUES (48 pages rather than 32):

During the season last year each weekly issue was 32 pages. Our panel recommended that this be increased to 48 pages to allow more space for game photos and analyses along with more editorial.

3. INCLUDE A FREE 132-PAGE SPECIAL ANNUAL ISSUE:

The panel recommended that we publish a special 132-page football annual during the pre-season. The purpose of the annual was two-fold. First, to serve as a complete discussion of all pre-season stories, statistics, and facts. Secondly, it would serve as a special keepsake issue for reference throughout the season and for years to come. We felt the best way to demonstrate the annual was to make one. The pre-season annual would be identical to this issue.

4. IMPROVED EDITORIAL:

The panel recommended additional editorial, more short news items, a wider variety of topics, and a more in-depth analysis of each game.

After the panel finished their recommendations, we analyzed how these changes would effect the cost of the magazine production. I think you can see that increasing the number of issues from 15 to 26, adding more pages per issue, plus a pre-season annual would be expensive. After a thorough evaluation of the cost, we were amazed that the increased cost to be paid by the subscribers was not as high as we had originally thought. Much of this cost can be absorbed by advertising revenues.

We believe we can offer a yearly subscription that includes 26 issues plus a special 132-page pre-season annual for only \$1.49 per issue (that is 26 issues for \$38.74). This would represent an increase of only \$8.79 from our present subscription price and each subscriber would receive 11 additional issues and the special pre-season annual. The annual alone is a \$4.95 value.

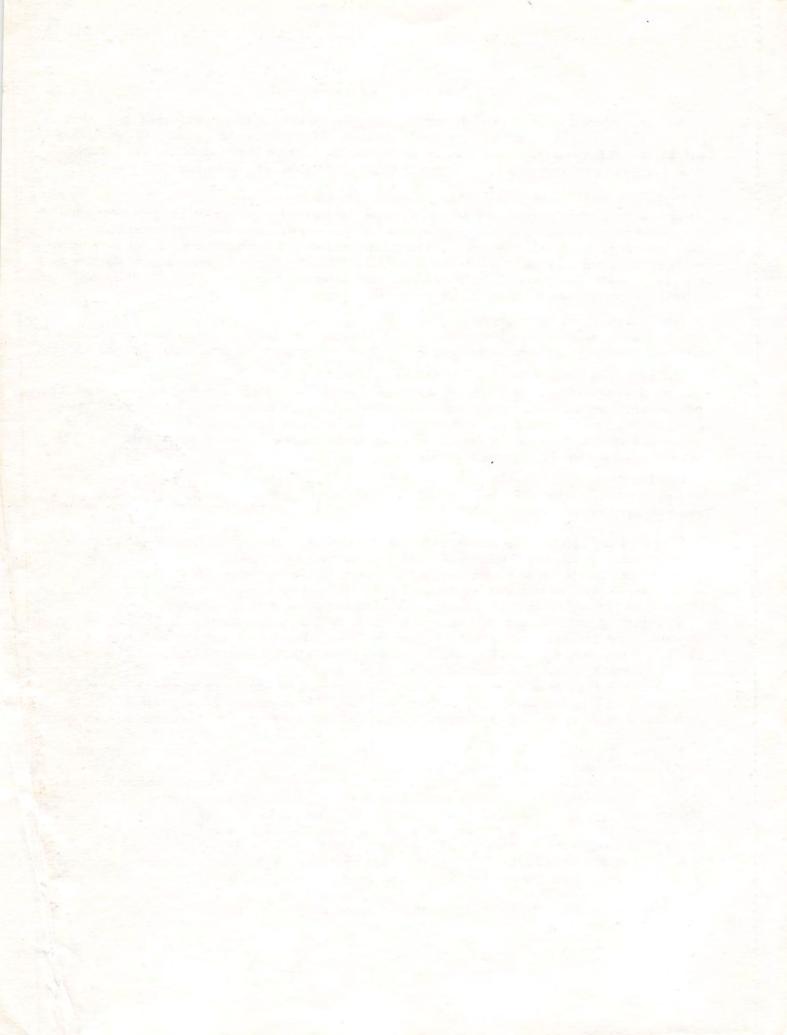
Under our present publishing schedule, each subscriber receives 15 issues for \$2.00 each or \$29.95 per year. If the proposed changes are made, each subscriber would receive 26 issues for only \$1.49 each, including the special pre-season annual. This represents a savings of \$.51 per issue plus the special annual edition.

We need your opinion! Do you agree with our panel that to receive 11 extra issues, the pre-season annual, bigger issues and more in-depth coverage of the team is worth the \$8.79 price increase?

Additionally, some of those on the panel felt that, for those persons on fixed incomes, it might be easier to fit the subscription price into their budget if they were allowed the opportunity to have the cost billed to them quarterly. Under this procedure you would be billed approximately \$10.00 every three months to help spread the cost of the subscription over the entire year. Do you think you would prefer to be billed every three months or just once a year?

Would you help us make this very important decision. We need your true and honest opinion about these proposed changes. Please take a few seconds and answer the three questions on the return post-card.

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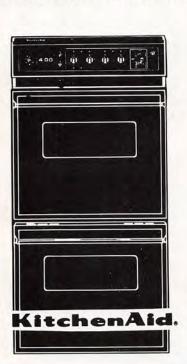
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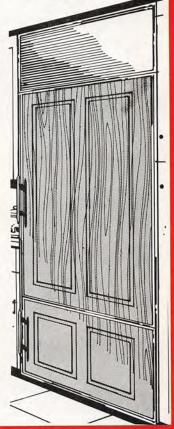












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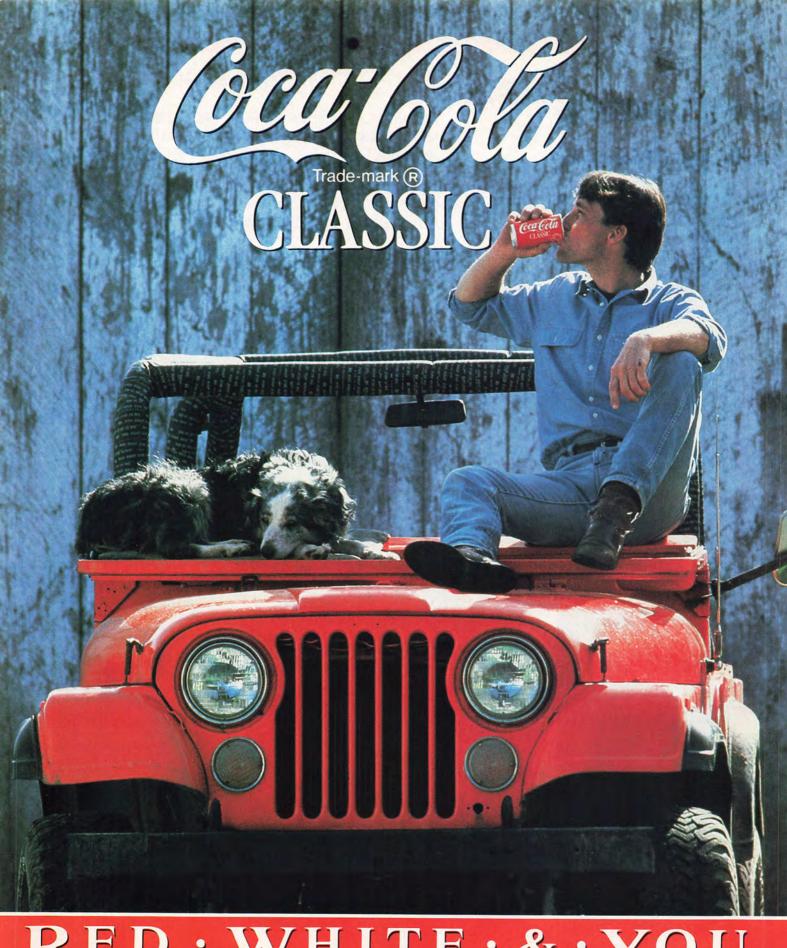
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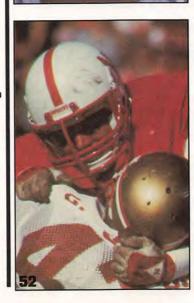
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Danny Noonan will be a leading candidate for Outland and Lombardi honors in 1986. Photographer John Bills caught Noonan in the Husker

6

In The Next Issue

An in-depth look at the crucial season opener with Florida State.

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Huskers Illustrated...

will be published the week of an open date, and monthly in Descentber. October and flovember, exce Publications, Inc., 7-8 16 2st 42nd Place, Sulte 400, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74 145, Second class postage paid at Tulsa, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Please send address changes to Haskers Illustrated, Circulation Offic 30/322, Lincoln, belranska 6850-1.

3722, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Subscriptions — \$79,99 per year. Nebraska residents add 4% sales tax. Subscriptions outside U.S. — \$39,95 per year. or subscription information, write **Neukars Illustrated**, F.O. Box 63222, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

Permission to reprint material contained in this magazine must be obtained in writing from the publisher. Telephone number for editorial and advertising offices is (918) 664-0082. Liftoned in U.S.A. Back issues may be obtained hen available at \$4.00 each. When ordering, include volume and number of issueis) desired.

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_etters

Dear Huskers:

I am a true Nebraska fan. I live in Oklahoma, but I always wear my Nebraska Cornhusker T-shirt and hat. My classmates tease me because I like Nebraska. I just tell them to wait till I play football for Nebraska and beat OU! Everywhere I go I see OU stuff, but I just ignore it and walk on by. There's a place in Duncan called Duncan Component Center. That's the place I get all my Nebraska football stuff. They carry a lot of stuff for different colleges.

Some day I hope to go to college in Nebraska so I can play football for the Nebraska Cornhuskers. I go to a little school about 70-80 miles south of Oklahoma City. Our school's name is Bray-Doyle. Our mascot is a donkey. I am on first-string in junior high football at Bray. I'm in the eighth grade (ninth grade this fall). I intend to play basketball next year.

Bobby William Rosier Marlow, Okla.

Dear Huskers:

I was wondering why you didn't include the spring game in the May/June issue, since it was played two weeks ago. Will it be in the next issue? Thanks again for the desperately needed Husker information.

Troy J. Johnson Decorah, Ia.

Troy: We face the same dilemma every year when it comes to that May/June issue. If we hold the magazine long enough to get results of the spring game in that issue, there would be three months between issues. Although spring practice is over by the time you get the magazine, there is no way we could delay the printing long enough to get the story and the pictures included. We have to go to press too early to do so. But I hope you notice that the complete statistics and a story on the spring game are included (as they are every year) in this issue.

Dear Huskers:

I have the Nebraska Football Media Guides from 1979-1985. Where can I get the media guides from 1970-1978? Also, would you publish the radio stations carrying Nebraska football for 1986? Thank you.

Steve Boschult Lincoln, Neb.

Steve: The Football Media Guides are produced by the Nebraska Sports Information Office. The availability of back issues is always questionable, but why

don't you give them a call at (402) 472-2263. We will try to get a listing of the radio stations before our next issue in Au-

Dear Huskers:

Would there be a possibility of forming a video club between a Nebraska Cornhusker and an out-of-stater for the purpose of taping all the Nebraska games that are not shown in the state of Pennsylvania? My love for the Cornhuskers and their fine ability on the field, plus the dedicated leadership of Mr. Tom Osborne, encourages me to want to see all the games you play.

My idea is to ask a friend in Nebraska who can video tape each game for me (I will pay for the tape) and send this tape to me C.O.D. Is there anyone in the Nebraska area who you know would be willing to do this for me? I would very much appreciate this kind assistance in this matter.

If you would like to talk with me about this further in regards to VHS taping for an avid Huskers fan, you may reach me at my home in the Dresher area code 215-887-5397, collect. I appreciate you taking your time with regards to this and I look forward to hearing from you very soon.

Albert Hardmon, Jr. Dresher, Penn.

Albert: We'll pass this along to our readers and see if any can help you out.

Dear Huskers:

I'd like to tell you what a great job you are doing covering the Huskers, and doing stories on individual players. I was wondering if you could please print a roster on the players who participated in spring practice. I was also wondering what happened to Jason Gamble, Novel Jackson, Pernell Gatson, Kris Lamb and Brad Ferguson, who is from my hometown at Chadron, Neb.

Clay R. Jancik Lafayette, Col.

Clay: We publish a complete roster once each year in the magazine, and that is the official roster compiled just before the season begins. That roster will be included in our next magazine which comes out in August.

Gamble had a good spring at wide receiver and is running second team. Gatson is listed at third-team wingback. Lamb and Ferguson will probably be redshirted next fall. And Jackson did not participate in spring practice, but could be back this fall. •

<u>Potpourri</u>

Inside Husker sports

Husker draftables

Only four Cornhuskers were chosen in the National Football League draft in late April, the fewest since 1971.

It was the first year since 1976 that Nebraska didn't have a player drafted in the first or second round.

Fullback Tom Rathman was the first Nebraska player chosen. He was the 56th player picked overall, going to the San Francisco 49ers in the third round.

All-American defensive tackle Jim Skow was drafted two picks later by the Cincinnati Bengals.

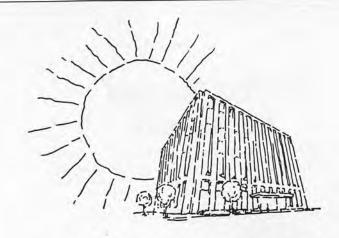
The other two Cornhuskers to be drafted, I-back Paul Miles and All-American center Bill Lewis, were taken in the seventh round, Miles by the Seattle Seahawks and Lewis by the Los Angeles Raiders.

Rathman, who's from Grand Island, established a school record for rushing yards by a fullback in 1985. He gained 881 yards on 118 carries, an average of 7.5 yards per carry.

He was the fourth fullback selected in the draft. The first three were John L. Williams of Florida, Anthony Toney of Texas A&M and Kenneth Davis of Texas Christian.

Ironically, Davis, who was declared ineligible by the NCAA and sat out his senior season, signed a Big Eight Conference letter of intent with Nebraska out of high school in Temple, Texas. Some NFL scouting services evaluated him as a running back rather than a fullback.

Rathman got his phone call from San Francisco Coach Bill Walsh in the early afternoon of draft day. "Coach Walsh told me he thought I'd really fit in there as the No. 3 back behind Wendell Tyler and Roger Craig," said Rathman, who

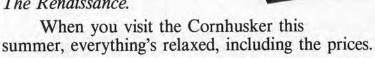


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stands 6-0 and weighs 235 pounds.

Craig, of course, is a former Cornhusker, who was a second-round pick of the 49ers in the 1982 draft.

San Francisco "is a great place to start your (professional) career," Rathman said. "They probably make the playoffs every year.

Skow, who will become a teammate of former Nebraska All-American Dave Rimington, was surprised to hear from the Bengals on draft day. He had just hung up from talking to the Miami Dolphins, who asked if he'd like to move to Florida. Then Cincinnati called to say he was theirs.

Immediately afterward, Skow headed to the golf course with Nebraska teammate Brian Blankenship "to get rid of some frustrations," said Skow.

The former Omaha Roncalli athlete led Nebraska's defensive line in tackles last season with 53, 43 of them unassisted. He had 25 tackles for losses totaling a record 163 yards and 15 quarterback sacks, all NU single-season records.

Skow also established school career records for tackles for losses (44), totaling 268 yards. The 6-3, 250-pound Skow probably will play defensive end or outside linebacker in the NFL.

Miles and Lewis were draft surprises, Miles because he went so high and Lewis because he went so late.

Miles, finished the season as Nebraska's third-string I-back, but Seattle Coach Chuck Knox indicated he'd have an opportunity to contribute immediately with the Seahawks, both on special teams and as a running back.

Miles, who's been timed at :04.51 in the 40-yard dash and was the Cornhuskers' strongest I-back with a 360-pound bench press, ranked sixth in the Big Eight in rushing despite missing one game. He gained 689 yards on 102 carries and scored five touchdowns.

Lewis, a 6-6, 275-pounder from Sioux City, Iowa, anchored a Nebraska offensive line that led the nation in rushing with an average of 374.3 yards per game. He was a consensus All-Big Eight pick and earned All-American recognition from the Football Writers Association of America.

The number of Cornhuskers drafted was more an indication of the youth of last season's team than it was a lack of talent. Many of Nebraska's key players in 1985 are back.

draft trivia

The most Cornhuskers ever chosen in the NFL draft was 12. That happened in 1975. The first three picked were linebackers. Tom Ruud was taken in the first round by the Buffalo Bills. Bob Nelson was selected in the second round by the Bills, and John Starkebaum was drafted in the fourth round by the New Orleans Saints.

The remainder of the Nebraska players picked in 1975, with their rounds: quarterback Dave Humm, fifth, Oakland; wide receiver Don Westbrook, sixth, Baltimore; offensive tackle Mark Doak, sixth, Washington; offensive guard Tom Alward, sixth, New York Jets; offensive tackle Marvin Crenshaw, sixth, Pittsburgh; defensive back Ardell Johnson, 11th, Washington; wide receiver Ritch Bahe, 14th St. Louis; offensive tackle Dennis Pavelka, 16th, Washington; offensive guard Stan Hegener, 17th, Pittsburgh.

Nebraska had 11 players drafted by the NFL in 1976, and 10 each in 1973 and 1980.

The four Cornhuskers drafted off the 1970 national championship team were running back Joe Orduna, in the second round by San Francisco; offensive tackle Bob Newton in the third round by Chicago; kicker Paul Rogers in the eighth round by the Pittsburgh Steelers; and tight end Dan Schneiss, in the 11th round by New England. Schneiss, of course, was a fullback at Nebraska.

The six Cornhuskers drafted off the 1971 national championship team were: quarterback Jerry Tagge in the first round by Green Bay; running back Jeff Kinney in the first round by Kansas City; defensive tackle Larry Jacobson in the first round by the New York Giants; offensive tackle Carl Johnson in the fifth round by New Orleans; quarterback Van Brownson in the eighth round by Baltimore; offensive guard Keith Wortman in the 10th round by Green Bay.

Nineteen Cornhuskers have been firstround picks in the NFL draft. Can you name them? Here's a list:

1937 — Lloyd Cardwell, halfback, Detroit Lions

1937 — Sam Francis, fullback, Philadelphia Eagles

1937 — Les McDonald, end, Chicago Bears

1964 — Bob Brown, guard, Philadelphia Eagles

1964 — Lloyd Voss, tackle, Green Bay Packers

1972 — Jeff Kinney, running back, Kansas City Chiefs

1972 — Jerry Tagge, quarterback, Green Bay Packers

1972 — Larry Jacobson, defensive tackle, New York Giants

1973 — Johnny Rodgers, wingback, San Diego Chargers

1974 — John Dutton, defensive tackle, Baltimore Colts

1975 — Tom Ruud, linebacker, Buffalo Bills

1979 — George Andrews, defensive end, Los Angeles Rams

1979 — Kelvin Clark, offensive tackle, Denver Broncos

1980 — Junior Miller, tight end, Atlanta Falcons 1982 — Jimmy Williams, linebacker, Detroit Lions

1983 — Dave Rimington, center, Cincinnati Bengals

1984 — Irving Fryar, wide receiver, New England Patriots

1984 — Dean Steinkuhler, offensive guard, Houston Oilers

1984 — Mike Rozier, running back, Houston Oilers

Fryar is the only Nebraska player ever to be the first pick in the NFL draft.







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Turner Gill, a three-time All-Big Eight quarterback for the Cornhuskers, was a third-round NFL draft pick of the New York Jets following the 1983 season. Because he had already been chosen in the United States Football League's draft, Gill's name was included in the supplemental draft by the National Football League.

Gill spent two seasons playing quarterback for Montreal in the Canadian Football League, but now he's turned his attention to baseball,

Gill suffered three concussions last season, a fact that caused Montreal doctors to decide he should give up football. Gill then signed with the Cleveland Indians and was sent to their Class A team in Waterloo, Iowa.

He played one season and part of another as a shortstop at Nebraska, after being drafted out of high school by the Chicago White Sox. Gill also was drafted by the New York Yankees while he was at Nebraska.

another Rodgers

Yes he is, no he's not, yes he is. Though the Cornhuskers apparently don't have a signed letter-of-intent to prove it, Terry Rodgers, the son of former Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers, will be wearing the Scarlet and Cream in the fall.

In what had to be one of the most unique football recruiting stories in Nebraska history, Terry Rodgers announced his decision to become a Cornhusker on April 30, more than two months after the NCAA letter-of-intent signing date.

Johnny Rodgers indicated early on that his son wouldn't commit to a school until he had carefully studied each school he was considering. In addition to Nebraska, Southern Cal, Texas, Arizona State and Ohio State were on his final

At the end, it appeared that his decision would be between the Cornhuskers and Southern Cal.

Terry Rodgers said the delay in making a commitment to Nebraska didn't really bother him. "With time you get more sure of what you want to do. When you sign two days after you take your recruiting trips, you may sign but not be absolutely sure.

"My father was getting all the information he could about all the schools and giving each school a fair opportunity as far as where I would go. He researched into all the schools and got all the information and took his time," Terry said.

Johnny Rodgers was firm in his resolve on the subject of where his son would attend college.

"I know people have been getting all the wrong ideas of what we've been up to," he said after Terry's announcement. "But I told Terry he needed to do things for a reason and not to be emotional. There's nothing wrong with taking your time when your whole life depends upon it.

"When you get a contractural arrangement (scholarship), you're putting up four years of your life.

"This is worth \$24,000 to \$50,000 over the next four years. You don't want to make a snap decision. The NCAA rules are so stringent that it takes that long to do the research necessary. You can't believe the families letting the other boys sign so early. It was rough for us, and they don't have the experience I do in this type of situation. When you have an opportunity to go to the best school in the country, you'd better do some research to find out what the best school is. We accumulated

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Looking Back



Looking Forward with Confidence



enough data on Nebraska to know that it's the best."

Among the factors which influenced Johnny Rodgers was the Cornhuskers' recruiting in the last few years.

"They recruited seven Blue Chip offensive linemen," he said. "Anybody running behind a line like that, and we think they'll be some of the best in the school's history, should do well."

Terry Rodgers certainly did well as a running back at Sweetwater High School in National City, Calif., a suburb of San Diego. As a senior, he was the state's Player of the Year, rushing for 1,711 yards and scoring 32 touchdowns.

During his three-year career, Rodgers rushed for 3,686 yards and scored 64 touchdowns. He led Sweetwater to a 37-1 record during that time.

Rodgers, who stands 5-9 and weighs 170 pounds, runs the 40-yard dash in :04.4 and can bench press 350 pounds.

"More than anything else stands out in my mind is the gentleman and the hard worker he is," said Gene Alim, Rodgers' football coach at Sweetwater High. "If ever there was a situation to take it easy in practice, Terry was in the situation he could have done that. We had kids slough a little bit here and there regardless if they were prima donnas."

"But Terry was the furthest thing from being a prima donna. He's a coach's dream. He's got the best work ethic I've seen in any kid. I think that stands out most in my mind."

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne, who appeared to be convinced all along that Terry Rodgers would opt to follow his father as a Cornhusker, was naturally pleased with the announcement.

"We're pleased this is what they want to do," said Osborne. "Basically, I've had a very positive feeling about Terry's intentions and Johnny's, too, for some time. Johnny wanted to make sure they checked into everything very thoroughly and not go on first impressions."

Once the decision was made, Johnny Rodgers was ready to predict a successful college career for his son. "We've had some great running backs (at Nebraska), but never a blazer like Terry," he said. "The boy's serious. He doesn't fool around. Give him a step and he's gone. I won't have to apologize to Coach Osborne for the kind of kid that Terry is. He's a storybook kid. He's never been in trouble. Just don't get in front of him when he's running the ball. He's always going for that goal line."

Johnny Rodgers also had a prediction for Nebraska. "I think Coach Osborne



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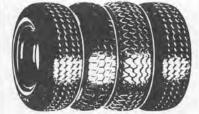
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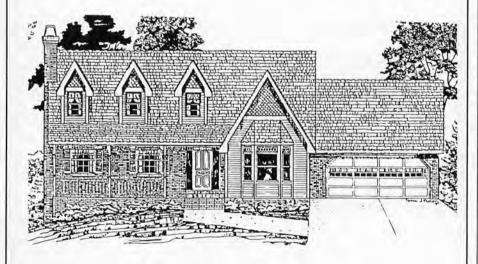
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is on the way to winning a couple of national championships, and Terry's going to be there."

Terry Rodgers gives Nebraska 18 scholarship freshmen in the fall. He's the only running back in that group.

quick kicks

Cornhusker split end Jason Gamble, who missed all of last season following reconstructive knee surgery, was welcomed back to action in the spring by Dante Wiley, a defensive back who transferred from Pittsburgh.

Wiley has a reputation for being a hitter, and Gamble will vouch for him.

The two collided while Gamble was running a pass route. "There was a big noise," said Gamble. "Everybody turned around and looked. Oooooh."

Hendley Hawkins, another split end, went over to Gamble. "Good block, but you should have stayed with him," Hawkins told Gamble.

"I told Hendley I was trying to get away from him (Wiley). He hit me dead in my chest, and I lost my breath," Gamble said.

Gamble had a good spring but missed the annual Red-White intrasquad game after injuring his knee falling down some stairs. He'll go into fall camp as the No. 2 split end behind senior Robb Schnitzler, last year's leading receiver, with 16 catches for 382 yards.

Gamble injured his knee in the next-tolast game of his freshman year.

"I still have flashbacks," he said. "I can hear it pop, three times. I can see it all. It was bad. But I really don't dwell on that. Everybody has accidents, and that's what it was.

He wasn't hesitant to go into contact in the spring. He blocked the knee injury out of his mind.

"I figured if it's going to happen (again), it's going to happen. I went into the spring thinking I was a new person, knowing some people were going to be after me. I didn't want any special favors. I wanted to prove myself, not just to the coaches but to myself, that I could do something to help the team," Gamble

Tyreese Knox, who moved from Iback to fullback in the spring, is happy at his new position. "It's better than I thought it would be," he said. "I thought it would take me a lot of time to get the reads. The fullback has to make things happen, and I think I can contribute a lot with the speed I have. I think I've caught on pretty fast."

Knox not only catches on to things fast, he's one of the fastest players on

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game plans.



our lineup

is Lincoln



the team, having run an electronically timed:04.45 in the 40.

He was aggressive enough as a blocker during the spring that he cracked his helmet. "I knew something was wrong, but I didn't know what," Knox said.

Walt Johnson, the equipment manager in the fieldhouse at the north end of Memorial Stadium discovered the crack.

"I don't know how long I was going with it cracked," said Knox. "It's amazing. Some guys go on and on with their helmets without anything happening, except that they might need air in them (the liners)."

According to Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne, Knox blocked "surprisingly well" during the spring.

Jon Kelley, Nebraska's No. 3 I-back, had to keep answering the same question during the spring. "People would come up to me and ask all kinds of things about the wishbone.

He had a stock answer: "If we're playing the wishbone, I guess I've been coming to the wrong practices."

"I don't know how people get these rumors," said Kelley. "Everybody thinks they have that inside track.

The wishbone questions probably were based on the number of quality backs the Cornhuskers have. "A lot of people think because we have a lot of backs, we could institute the wishbone right away," Kelley said.

"But it would take time."

Frank Solich, Nebraska's offensive backs coach, calls walkon Jeff Wheeler

the Cornhuskers' most elusive I-back. Wheeler goes into the fall at No. 4, behind Doug DuBose, Keith Jones and Jon Kelley.

Because of injuries to DuBose and Jones during the spring, Wheeler got an opportunity to run with the first team.

"It's not hard to keep my enthusiasm up. Last year I was just practicing against the first- and second-teamers. Now I'm actually scrimmaging against them which makes me know what I can do," Wheeler said.

He stands 5-10 and weighs 175.

Wheeler led Iowa high schools in average yards per carry as a junior and senior at Urbandale High. His senior year he rushed for 1,245 yards.

Wheeler lived in Millard for five years. His father is from Millard. His mother is from Grand Island.

Tight end Tom Banderas on his rare opportunities to catch passes: "If it gets around me, I want to make sure I catch it because it doesn't come around too often. That's my motto. Plus, I like to do something with it when I catch it. That way the coaches will say, 'If we can get it to him, we know he's going to do something.'

Banderas caught only two passes last season. Both went for touchdowns.

Since pass catching isn't his primary responsibility, though, "making a good block is just as important to me, and I get just as happy.

Junior quarterback Clete Blakeman on Nebraska's revitalized passing game:

Baseball captains (left to right), Mike Dobbs, Paul Meyers and Burt Beedy. Meyers was a repeat All-Big Eight honoree.

"We have the personnel to be a good passing team. It's going to become an important part of our offense. Last year, we used it more as a surprise aspect. But you've got to be balanced to be a good offense.'

Blakeman finished the spring as the No. 2 quarterback, behind Steve Taylor and ahead of McCathorn Clayton.

"There's a lot of competition on the field, but off the field, we're good friends," he said. "That's the best way to be."

Playboy's best

Cornhusker I-back Doug DuBose has been picked as a member of the annual Playboy All-American team.

touching other bases

The Nebraska baseball team finished its season with a 35-25 record, the fewest victories during John Sanders' nine-year tenure as head coach.

Even so, the Cornhuskers were third during the Big Eight regular season, behind perennial powers Oklahoma and Oklahoma State, which went on to represent the conference in the College World Series.

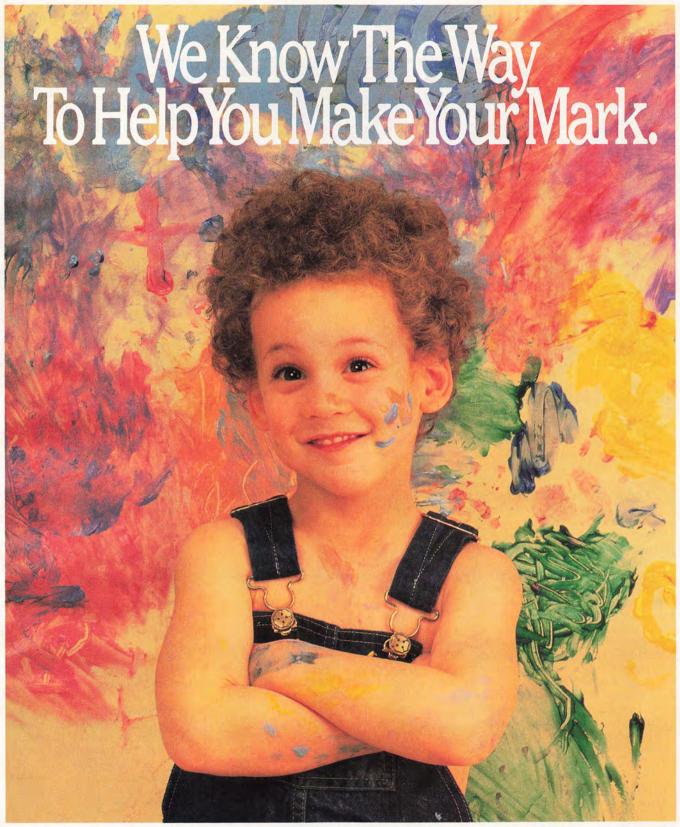
Nebraska was fourth in the Big Eight post-season tournament at Oklahoma City, losing to Oklahoma State 6-0 in the first round and to Missouri 10-8 in the second round.

The Cornhuskers' record was deceptive because of the strength of their schedule. They played 21 games against teams that were ranked in the nation's Top 20 at one time or another during the sea-

Six seniors completed their Cornhusker careers in 1986. They were: pitchers Mark Honnor and Mike Dobbs, catcher Burt Beattie, second baseman Larry Mims, shortstop Curtiss Heflin and outfielder Rich King.

Beattie led the nation in doubles during the regular season, with 24, and Mims ranked fourth in the country with 37 stolen bases in 40 attempts. Mims also led the Big Eight in triples (7).

Junior center fielder Paul Meyers was the only repeat selection on the all-conference team. He led Nebraska in hitting (.347) and base hits (85). He hit 15 home runs and 20 doubles, stole 29 bases and



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drove in 66 runs.

In three seasons, Meyers already holds school career records in runs-batted-in (209), hits (250), at-bats (715) and doubles (45).

Whether or not he increases those totals will depend on whether he returns to Nebraska for his senior season. Meyers was a high-round pick of the San Francisco Giants in the major league baseball free agent draft.

Pitcher Phil Harrison also was drafted. by the Chicago Cubs. The redshirted sophomore left-hander from Glendora, Calif., led the Big Eight in strikeouts with a school-record 98. He finished 8-4 with a 3.38 earned-run-average and like Meyers was first-team All-Big Eight.

Harrison struck out 15 in a game

against Oklahoma State.

Mims, second-team all-conference and first-team Big Eight All-Academic, was drafted and signed by the Baltimore Orioles. Sophomore right-hander Kip Gross, the No. 1 reliever, was drafted by the New York Mets.

Beattie and outfielder Todd Bunge earned All-Big Eight honorable mention. Mark Kister was first-team All- Academic along with Mims, and King received honorable mention for the conference's All-Academic squad.

After the season, Cornhusker pitching coach Mike Evans resigned to pursue a head coaching job.

Husker baseball leaders

HITTING: Average (minimum 75 atbats) — Paul Meyers, .347; Todd Bunge, .347; Burt Beattie, .344; Larry Mims, .328; Mark Kister, .326; John Franklin, .299; Rich King, .268; Curtiss Heflin, .268; Bruce Wobken, .258; Jeff Taylor, .241; Bryan Newton, .217.

Hits - Meyers, 85; Bunge, 78; Mims, 78; Kister, 73; Beattie, 66.

Doubles - Beattie, 24; Meyers, 20; Bunge, 18; Mims, 15; King, 14.

Triples — Mims, 7; Meyers, 2; Franklin, 2; Heflin, 2; Taylor, 2.

Home runs — Bunge, 17; Meyers, 15; King, 14; Kister, 7.

Runs-batted-in - Bunge, 69; Meyers, 66; Mims, 46; Beattie, 37; Kister, 35; King, 35; Taylor 25.

Walks — Heflin, 44; Mims, 40; Bunge, 37; Kister, 33; King, 30; Meyers, 23.

Stolen bases — Mims, 37; Meyers, 29; Bunge, 14; Heflin, 11; King, 10.

Runs — Mims, 73; Bunge, 63; Meyers, 55; Kister, 48; King, 47; Heflin, 40; Beattie, 39; Wobken, 30.

PITCHING: Victories - Phil Harrison, 8-4; Kip Gross, 5-5; Mike Dobbs, 4-6; Phil Goguen, 3-0; Stevins Spurgeon, 3-1; Mark Honnor, 3-2; Joel Sealer, 2-0; Rocky Johnson, 2-1; John Lepley, 2-2; Phil Lieberher, 2-3.

Earned-run-average — Goguen, 2.76; Johnson, 3.16; Harrison, 3.38; Honnor, 4.13; Gross, 4.25; Dobbs, 5.51.

Innings — Harrison, 90.1; Honnor, 74; Gross, 67.2; Dobbs, 63.2; Lieberher, 42.1; Johnson, 37.

Complete games - Harrison, 6; Dobbs, 3; Honnor, 1; Goguen, 1; Lepley, 1; Spurgeon, 1.

Strikeouts - Harrison, 98; Honnor,

Bob Devaney was honored in June by the Oklahoma Cornhusker Club. Club co-founder Dr. Don Nelson presented Devaney an award (left photo) at Shangri-La Lodge near Tulsa. Then the group headed for the golf course. Dr. Nelson, Art Newberg and Huskers Illustrated Publisher Mike Henry started the club in 1981; members now number 184 in the Tulsa area.

59; Gross, 50; Dobbs, 39; Johnson, 38; Lepley, 33; Lieberher, 30.

basketball bits

The Cornhusker men's basketball team opens its season at California-Irvine Nov. 28. The home opener is slated for Dec. 1 against Oregon.

Nebraska resumes a home-and-home series during the 1986-87 season.

The schedule:

November: 15 — Yugoslavian Nationals; 28 — at California-Irvine.

December: 1 — Oregon; 6 — at Creighton; 10 — at Southern Illinois; 13 - at Texas A&M; 20 - Wyoming; 22 Detroit; 27 — Missouri-St. Louis; 29-30 — at Rochester, N.Y., Classic (Butler, George Mason, San Francisco.)

January: 3 - Creighton; 5 - North-Continued on page 32

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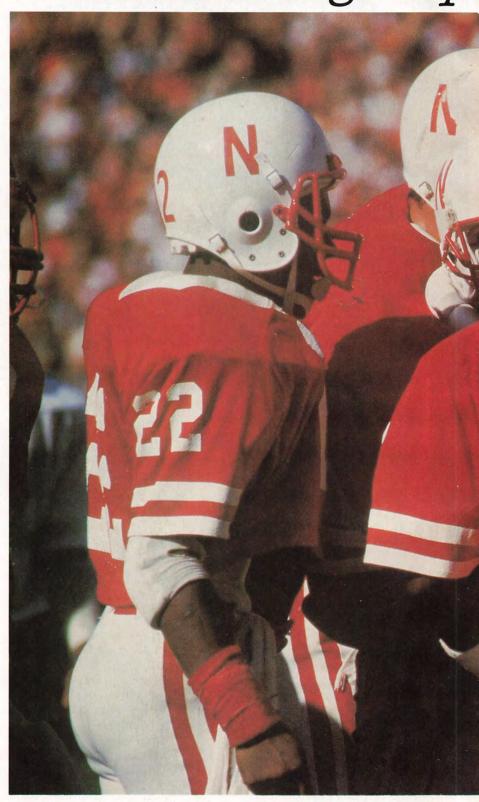
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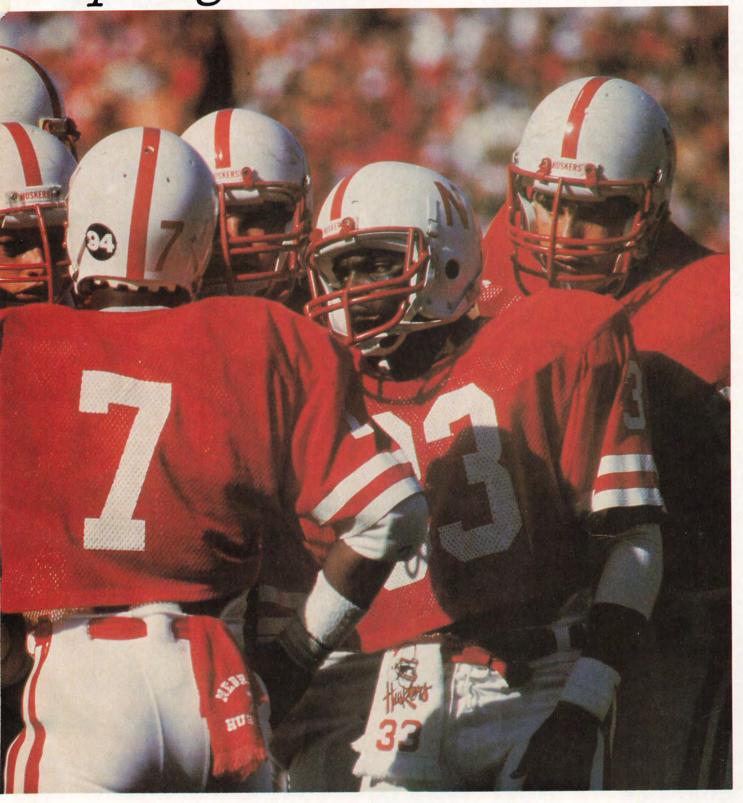
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Huskers regroup



in spring for national title run





70-14 Explosion In Red-White Game "Misleading"

By Mike Babcock

ope springs eternal...
Nebraska's annual spring intrasquad game was reason for optimism among Cornhusker football fans, who left Memorial Stadium talking about 1983 and "The Scoring Explosion."

The game ended 70-14 in favor of the Red team, comprised primarily of first-

and fourth-unit players.

The Reds' 70 points were a Spring Game record. The 84 points scored by both teams were one short of the record set by the 1971 Cornhuskers, who won the second of Nebraska's two consecutive mythical national championships.

To some in a Spring Game record audience of more than 23,000 that may have been an omen, a sign 1986 would be something special. But most people had visions of "The Scoring Explosion" when they headed for home.

The 1983 Cornhuskers featured an offense that included Heisman Trophy winner Mike Rozier at I-back, Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award winner Dean Steinkuhler at guard, All-American Irving Fryar at wingback and three-time All-Big Eight Conference selection Turner Gill at quarterback.

They averaged 52 points a game and, in

case you've forgotten, came up just one point short of an undefeated season and another national title.

Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne tried to temper the enthusiasm which attended the 84-point Spring Game outburst.

"A lot of the scoring was misleading really," he said. "It got to where the score was 21-0 before the Red team did anything. We (the Reds) came in at the half with 49 points and really hadn't driven the ball much at all."

Neither team had much luck sustaining drives, but Osborne couldn't deny the fact his team had been explosive.

Of the Spring Game's 12 touchdowns, seven came on plays of 29 yards or farther, beginning with Dana Brinson's 65-yard punt return less than two minutes into the 20-minute first period. Brinson completed the scoring by turning a short pass from McCathorn Clayton into an 81-yard touchdown play with 4:44 remaining in the game.

Brinson, a sophomore wingback from Valdosta, Ga., is characteristic of the 1986 Cornhuskers. He's the second fastest football player in Nebraska history, having been electronically timed at :04.39 in the 40-yard dash.

Only junior I-back Keith Jones is faster. He's run:04.33 in the 40.

Though Brinson and Jones would win most footraces, "we have a lot of players who can run," said Osborne. Overall, "there's maybe a little more

Overall, "there's maybe a little more speed at the skill positions than we've had in some time." That includes 1983.

Ironically, much of that speed was missing from the Spring Game.

On the offense, Keith Jones underwent arthroscopic knee surgery to remove a small piece of cartilage and sat out as did split end Jason Gamble, who injured a knee when he fell down some stairs a week before the Spring Game.

Gamble missed all of last season following reconstructive knee surgery. The sophomore from Santa Barbara, Calif., appears to have recovered and figures into Nebraska's 1986 plans.

In addition to Jones and Gamble, fullback Tyreese Knox missed the Spring Game for disciplinary reasons.

Among the defensive players absent from the game were tackles Neil Smith and Lee Jones, the two fastest linemen in school history, and linebacker Marc Munford, who's trying to come back from reconstructive knee surgery.

Prior to his injury, which occurred early in the second quarter of a 56-6 victory over Kansas, Munford was the Cornhuskers' fastest linebacker, having been timed at :04.72 in the 40.

An assessment of Nebraska's 1986 team inevitably begins with Munford, "who's probably as good a linebacker as we've had here in the years I've been a coach," said Osborne, who began as a graduate as-

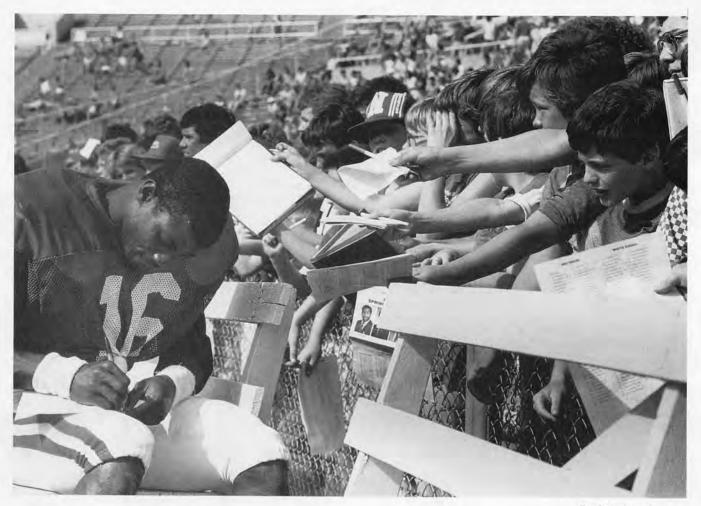
sistant in 1962.

The Cornhuskers without Munford are like Oklahoma without All-American linebacker Brian Bosworth, according to Osborne. "When we lost Marc, we were probably a 20 percent poorer football team," Osborne said. "It's important to have him back."

Despite missing two and a half games, Munford led Nebraska in tackles last season, finishing with 67, 43 of which were



Steve Taylor's Reds lit the scoreboard lights.



unassisted. He broke up three passes, intercepted two others and recovered a pair of fumbles.

The Associated Press included him on its All-Big Eight first team.

By the end of spring drills, Munford's left knee tested at 90 percent on the Cybex machine. Still, there's uncertainty about his availability this season. "I've got some doubts, but I'm going to give it a shot," he said.

"I know I'll be suiting up for the first day of practice. Whether or not I can finish two-a-days and play the season might be a different story."

After the first or second scrimmage in the fall, "I think I should have a pretty good idea of whether I'm going to be able to make it. I hope I can make it and contribute because I think we're going to have a great team."

Munford is one of eight returning defensive players with starting experience. The others are middle guard Danny Noonan, tackle Chris Spachman, linebacker Kevin Parsons, cornerback Brian Davis, monster back Brian Washington and free safeties Bryan Siebler and Chris Carr.

Carr, however, was moved to monster during the spring and goes into the fall at

No. 3.

Though the Spring Game score might appear to indicate otherwise, the Cornhusker defense should be strong in 1986, even if Munford can't play.

"I think we're going to be pretty good on defense. I'm reasonably optimistic about that," Osborne said.

Defensive coordinator Charlie McBride described the Red-White Game as the defense's best scrimmage of the spring.

The Red defense scored two touchdowns, the first when cornerback Cleo Miller blocked a punt then chased the ball down and recovered it in the end zone and the second when Davis intercepted a pass and returned it 67 yards, and set up three others. The Reds intercepted three passes in all and allowed an average of only 2.9 yards per snap.

The defense will be built around Noonan, Spachman and Davis, seniors who should be candidates for All-American as well as all-conference recognition.

McBride considers Noonan the best collegiate middle guard in the country. He was credited with 47 tackles last season, including 11 quarterback sacks for losses totaling 69 yards.

Only tackle Jim Skow had more.

The 6-4, 280-pound Noonan, a second-

Paul Parker signs autographs for some of the record 23,000 fans at the spring game.

team all-conference pick, made nine tackles in Nebraska's 27-23 Sunkist Fiesta Bowl loss to Michigan.

With a good season, he could be a candidate for both the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award.

The emergence of Lawrence Pete during the spring should make Noonan even more effective by allowing him to rest from time to time.

"With a guy who has Pete's strength, you're not losing a whole lot when he goes in there. It looks like he and Danny have a chance to be two really good noseguards," said McBride.

Pete, a 6-2, 280-pound sophomore from Wichita, Kan., got a chance to carry the ball during the Spring Game. Prior to the final touchdown, he was sent in and lined up at I-back, taking a handoff from quarterback Steve Taylor and gaining two yards to the one.

"I would've liked to see him score," said Taylor, who kept the ball on an option on the next play and picked up the final yard. "I wanted to pitch it to him on that option, but the (defensive) guy took the pitch man.

"It wasn't anything I planned, certainly," Osborne said of Nebraska's version of a play popularized by the Chicago Bears' 300-pound William "Refrigerator"

Nebraska probably won't use Pete at Iback in the fall, however. "I hope the fans liked it. I don't think they'll see it again," Taylor said.

Pete, who was coming off knee surgery that forced him to redshirt last fall, missed the first part of spring drills and wasn't quite 100 percent for the Red-White game. But "Lawrence was a guy who really improved," said McBride.

Spachman is a two-year starter who's ready to step from the shadows of more publicized teammates this season.

The lack of media attention "is starting to bother me a little bit," Spachman said. "A lot of people, friends and family, feel it's kind of my time to kick it in high gear and start playing. It's not as if I've been totally clueless out on the field, but it's time to really get mentally prepared and play every down like I'm going to make the tackle.'

Last season, Spachman made 34 tackles. 23 of them unassisted, broke up four passes, recovered two fumbles and returned two interceptions for touchdowns. The second of those, a 76-yarder against Oklahoma in the final game of the regular season, kept Nebraska from being shut out for the first time in 147 games.

Spachman and Noonan shared the award as the football team's Weightlifter of the Year, following a vote of the team at the end of spring drills. "They're two quality players," said Osborne.

So are Smith and Lee Jones, whose experience is such that their absence in the spring wasn't a major concern.

Jones underwent shoulder surgery prior to the beginning of spring practice and missed all four weeks. Smith had a calcium deposit removed from a hip early on and was held out.

Despite sitting out the spring, Jones goes into fall camp as No. 1 on the right side, ahead of Danny Groskurth, a walkon from Wisner-Pilger who ran with the first team in Jones' absence.

Groskurth and Tim Rother, a former offensive tackle who spent some time at center during the spring, give Nebraska depth at defensive tackle.

Rother was one of the most pleasant surprises of the spring, according to McBride. "I think he can be a good player," McBride said of the walkon from Bellevue. "He's big and aggressive,

and he can run."

Because of the Rother's successful transition from offense, "we may develop a little more depth in our defensive line than I thought going in (to the spring)," Osborne said.

As was the case with the defensive line, defensive end was a concern going into the spring. Three of the top four ends in 1985 are gone.

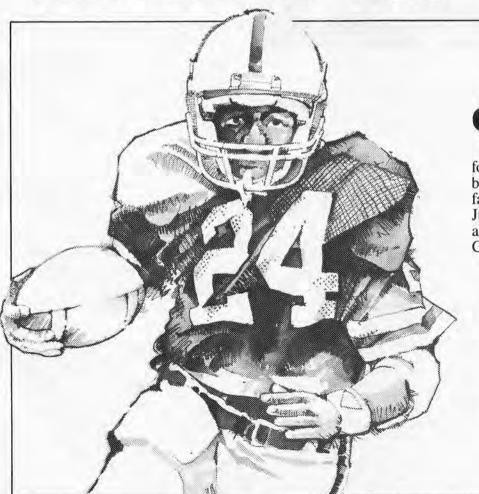
Tony Holloway, a 6-3, 210-pound senior from Bellevue, is the returnee. "He's intelligent. He knows the position, and he's aware of what's going on around him," said Tony Samuel, Nebraska's new defensive ends coach. "He can be as good a pass defender as we've had in some time because of his quickness."

Holloway has been timed at :04.63 in the 40-yard dash, and his personal best in the bench press is 370 pounds, a combination of speed and strength that could make him one of the top defensive ends in the Big Eight this fall.

Last season, Holloway made 20 tackles and had three quarterback sacks for losses totaling 21 yards.

Jeff Jamrog, a junior from Omaha, came on strong in the spring and will enter fall camp as Holloway's back-up.

Senior Brad Tyrer and sophomore Broderick Thomas finished the spring



Comin'right at ya.

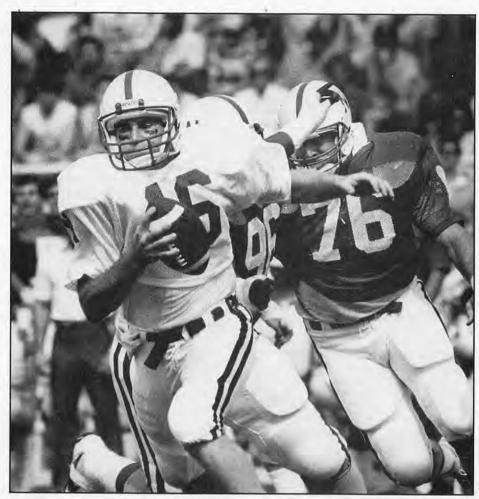
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Jerry Mlinar tries to elude Chris Spachman in spring action.

dead-even at the top of the depth chart at left defensive end.

Tyrer, who's been plagued by injuries throughout his career at Nebraska, played "exceptionally well" in the spring, according to Osborne.

Thomas, the nephew of Chicago Bears' linebacker Mike Singletary, never played a down with the junior varsity, a rare situation for a Cornhusker freshman. "He's still learning, but he's going to be all right," Samuel said. "Broderick's aggressive.

"He can make a lot of plays."

So can Parsons, who was Nebraska's third linebacker last fall. The senior from Springfield, Mo., finished fourth on the team in tackles with 48, including 29 unassisted.

Parsons started three games, all in Munford's absence, and responded by making 14 tackles against Missouri and 13 each against Oklahoma and Michigan. He broke up six passes, recovered a fumble and had three tackles for losses totaling 11 yards. "Kevin Parsons is a quality player. He could play for anybody," said Osborne.

Parsons will be backed up by LeRoy Etienne, a sophomore who was promoted to the varsity near the end of the last season, and Doug Welniak, who earned a letter playing on special teams.

Steve Forch handled the first-team responsibilities at weakside linebacker during the spring. The senior out of Lincoln East "has great physical talent, but at times he's been a little inconsistent," Osborne said

Forch came on strong late last season, and "we hope he can pick up where he left off," said Osborne. "If so, he could be a valuable player for us."

Much depends on Munford's health. If he's able to play at close to full-speed, and "those other guys keep getting better, we could have a great corps of linebackers," Osborne said.

The Cornhusker secondary won't look much different in 1986 than it did in 1985. Only one starter, right cornerback Dennis Watkins, is gone.

Davis, the No. 1 left cornerback, is the cornerstone of the secondary.

The 6-3, 195-pound senior from Phoenix made 23 tackles, intercepted two passes and broke up eight others last season. He's "probably as fine a corner as we've had here," McBride said.

Osborne agrees with McBride.

"I think Brian Davis is one of the more talented players we've had," he said. "It's just a shame that he couldn't have redshirted. We'd have had two great years out of him. Last season he played fairly well the first half and real well the last half.

"He should have a great season."

Davis, of course, transferred to Nebraska from Glendale, Ariz., Community College, where he was a junior college All-American.

One of the defensive priorities in the spring was getting the secondary to be more aggressive in its run support.

Davis is convinced he and the other defensive backs succeeded.

"We try to fly to the ball," he said. "This defense is going to be much more aggressive."

One of the most aggressive players there is sophomore Charles Fryar, who came out of the spring as the No. 1 cornerback on the right side.

Fryar, a cousin of former Nebraska All-American Irving Fryar, started for the Cornhusker jayvees last season and "was probably the most impressive of the freshman defensive backs," said Osborne. "He really does come up and tackle well."

The second-team cornerbacks coming out of the spring were John Custard, a redshirted sophomore walkon from Bellevue, and Miller, a senior who lettered last fall after transferring from Taft, Calif., Junior College.

Mike Carl, a two-year letterman who made 21 tackles last season, goes into the fall as the No. 3 right cornerback after missing all of the spring because of abdominal problems.

Though Fryar and Custard, who missed part of the spring with a shoulder injury, are unproven in varsity competition, "overall, we look a little stronger at corner than we have in some time," Osborne said.

Washington, the leading tackler in the secondary and second-team All-Big Eight last season, finished strong in the spring. George Darlington, the Cornhusker defensive backs coach, experimented with Washington at free safety, where Siebler has experience.

Mark Blazek, a sophomore redshirt walkon from Valparaiso, was a surprise in the spring and will go into fall camp as the No. 2 free safety. Dan Thayer, another player who had a good spring, goes in at No. 3.

Jeff Tomjack and Chris Carr are listed behind Washington on the depth chart.

Dante Wiley, a sophomore transfer from Pittsburgh who was up and down during the spring, also could figure in the picture at free or strong safety.

Nebraska ranked sixth nationally in

Serious injury? Nope. Dave Clare is simply getting some help from trainer George Sullivan and the officials in putting in a contact lens.

total defense last season, allowing an average of 279.1 yards per game. The Cornhuskers were ninth in scoring defense, 15th in rushing defense and 20th in pass de-

Those statistics should be even better in 1986 if spring practice was any indication. After the Red-White game, Taylor described the play of the Red team's defense as "awesome."

"You like to see that because when you play Oklahoma, you have to have a good defense," Nebraska's sophomore quarterback said.

A check back at the 1983 season with its Scoring Explosion is evidence of that. The Cornhuskers scored 31 points against Miami in the Orange Bowl. That probably should have been enough to win, but it wasn't.

Nebraska's offense probably will be built around DuBose and Taylor, 1986 versions of Rozier and Gill.

DuBose figures to be a candidate for the Heisman Trophy after rushing for 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons. The senior from Uncasville, Conn., is only the third Cornhusker to do so. The others were Rozier and Jarvis Redwine.

DuBose is the first Nebraska running back to gain 1,000 yards as a sophomore and junior. He's rushed for 2,205 yards during his collegiate career to rank sixth on the school's all-time list, behind Rozier (4,780 yards), I.M. Hipp (2,814), Rick Berns (2,449), Roger Craig (2,446) and Jeff Kinney (2,244).

DuBose, who's a two-time All-Big Eight selection, missed almost all of the spring while recovering from arthroscopic knee surgery.

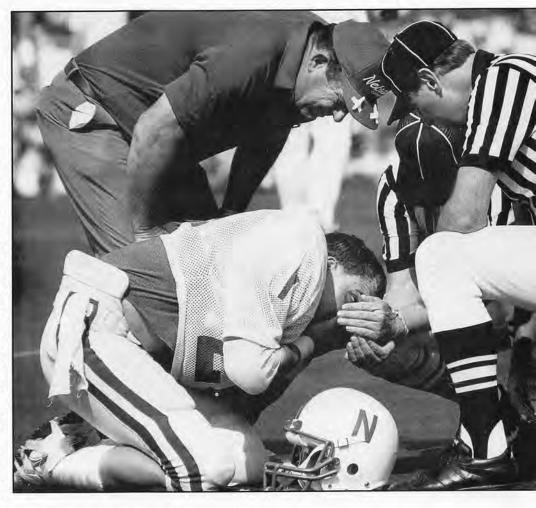
But Frank Solich, Nebraska's offensive backs coach, wasn't concerned about the missed practice time. "Doug has a tremendous amount of experience. As far as I'm concerned, he'll be able to step on the field and perform up to par at any time," Solich said.

The Cornhuskers have capable replacements for DuBose in Keith Jones and Jon Kelley, a pair of juniors.

With Jones sidelined in the spring, Kelley had an opportunity to show what he could do. He's one of the fastest players on the team, having been timed at :04.45 in the 40-yard dash.

Jones played in 10 games during the regular-season a year ago, gaining 240 yards and scoring three touchdowns.

"I would have liked to have seen Keith



finish up the spring without an injury," said Solich.

Nevertheless, he knows Jones can play. So can Kelley, who's concentrating on getting lower when he runs. At 6-1, "I'm a little taller than the other guys (I-backs), and when I run, my knees are kind of high," Kelley said. "If you're running high, you can be the strongest back on the team, but you're giving them (tacklers) an open shot. You're wide-open, and anybody can get a good shot at your body."

Getting a good shot at Jeff Wheeler, Nebraska's No. 4 I-back, has never been easy, according to Solich. The 5-91/2, 175-pound walkon "is our most elusive runner," said Solich.

Considering Taylor's moves when he can't find an open pass receiver, Solich's statement might have to be qualified. The sophomore from Spring Valley, Calif., had a good spring of practice and finished a solid No. 1 ahead of Clete Blakeman and Clayton.

Taylor "needs to continue to be more consistent. He has great skills," Osborne

In the Spring Game, Taylor completed three of eight passes for 81 yards and a touchdown, teamming up with Von Sheppard for 61 yards near the end of the first period. He also carried nine times for 38 yards.

Osborne thought he might have rushed for a few more yards if he had read the defenses better. "Toward the end, he could have scrambled for some big gains and he elected to throw the ball. Hopefully, in the fall when he's got 20 yards around the corner, he'll take the 20 yards," said Osborne.

Taylor said he would.

Blakeman, a junior from Norfolk, came out of the spring at No. 2, up a step from where he began. His promotion was more a tribute to the success he had than it was an indication of any shortcomings Clayton displayed.

Clayton, who started all but two games a year ago, got off to a slow start in the spring because of injuries, but "the last two weeks he played better," said Os-

Nebraska has considerable talent at quarterback, which was "satisfactory, overall" in the spring, according to Osborne. However, "it still needs to get better," he said.

The Cornhusker quarterbacks also need to continue improving as passers. Nebraska ranked 95th in the nation in passing offense last season, and that was an area of emphasis in the spring.

Taylor is convinced Cornhusker fans



Clete Blakeman looks for an opening in the White defense.

will see the ball in the air more often this fall. "I was worried about whether we were going to throw the ball," he said. "We didn't throw it that much last year. But with the potential we have, we'll throw the ball when we have to. Coach Osborne is a lot more comfortable with our improvement. I think we'll pass."

Whether or not that's the case, one thing is certain. A year of maturity will have a significant effect on Taylor's play.

"I feel a lot more comfortable with the offense and the players," Taylor said. "We have a lot of confidence in each other. To win a national championship or a Big Eight championship you have to have that."

Sheppard and Brinson give the Cornhuskers a good one-two punch at wingback, with Ray Nelson a quality third-string player.

Sheppard, a junior from St. Paul, Minn., was one of Nebraska's most versatile offensive performers last season, catching nine passes for 281 yards and two touchdowns, rushing 21 times for 295 yards and four TDs and returning seven kicks for 79 yards.

Brinson played in six games, catching one pass, carrying twice and returning eight kicks, seven of them punts.

But he lost his job as a punt returner "by not concentrating. Last year, I was kind of lackadaisical," said Brinson. "I wasn't into it that much. I was a freshman and I had the opportunity (to play), and I guess I thought it was just going to come easy, that I wasn't going to have to work.

"I had a couple of bad games, and I lost my composure."

During the spring, it appeared Brinson regained his composure.

"He's got all the moves and all the talent you'd look for," Osborne said.

The same could be said of Knox, a backup to Ken Kaelin, who goes into fall camp as Nebraska's top fullback.

Kaelin, a senior from Westerville, has experience and the consistency that goes with it, but Knox, who made the switch from I-back to fullback, has more impressive physical skills.

"We'd like to have somebody there who's a big-play player, who can go the distance," said Osborne.

Knox, who's one of the team's fastest players, could be that somebody.

Micah Heibel goes into the fall as the No. 3 fullback. Senior Dan Casterline could get some playing time if he can come back from hamstring problems that sidelined him for the entire spring.

With a backfield that includes breakaway threats like DuBose, Sheppard or Brinson and Knox, "it takes a lot of pressure off you (as quarterback)," Taylor said. "You can give them the ball, and they'll run 10 or 15 yards for a first down."

Nebraska's receiving corps has similar potential, and not only because of Sheppard and Brinson.

Split end is one of the deepest positions on the team, with Robb Schnitzler and Rod Smith, the top two a year ago both back and Gamble coming off his injury-forced redshirt.

His recovery was such that he'll enter fall camp at No. 2 behind Schnitzler, the team's leading receiver in 1985. The senior from Battle Creek caught 16 passes for 382 yards and two TDs.

Gamble, a regular as a freshman two seasons ago, provides breakaway speed. Smith, who caught eight passes for 121 yards last fall, gives the Cornhuskers consistency.

Hendley Hawkins, a converted quarterback, also had a good spring and could compete for a spot on the travel roster this season.

Junior Tom Banderas and sophomore Todd Millikan went into the spring No. 1 and No. 2 at tight end, and that's the way they came out. Banderas caught only two passes last season, but both of them went for touchdowns.

Mark Diaz, a senior walkon from Lincoln, came on to finish No. 3.

Sophomore Willie Griffin, who's back after a season off to get some classes in order, could eventually be a factor at tight end, according to Gene Huey, Nebraska's receivers coach.

The Cornhuskers' offensive line will be built around senior tackle Tom Welter, another of the team's candidates for postseason honors.

With Welter and guards Stan Parker and John McCormick, Nebraska has more experience in the line than usual. All three started some a year ago.

Though Rob Maggard and Keven Lightner, the top two left tackles didn't start, they played enough to be experienced.

The biggest concern about the line going into the spring was center, a position left open by the departure of All-American Bill Lewis.

Senior Mark Cooper, whose weight is up around 250 pounds, finished spring practice as No. 1, with John Nichols, a pleasant surprise, and Jeff Sellentin, a junior letterman, lining up second and third, respectively, behind him.

Half of the kicking game returns in place-kicker Dale Klein, with John Kroeker, a redshirted sophomore, finishing the spring as the No. 1 punter. Craig Schnitzler figures to be a back-up for both responsibilities, with sophomore Chris Drennan possibly headed for a redshirt.

Klein and the other place-kickers were kept busy in the Spring Game converting extra points. Nebraska fans are hoping they'll see the same thing in the fall.

Hope springs eternal for the Cornhuskers, and with good reason... ♦

SPRING GAME STATS TWO-DEEP

Score by Quarters

Whites	0	14	0	0 - 14
Reds	28	21	14	7 - 70

First Quarter

R - Steve Taylor 6 run (Dale Klein kick), 19:17

Drive: Two plays, 7 yards, :35

R — Dana Brinson 65 punt return (Klein kick), 18:09

R - Cleo Miller 32 punt return (Klein kick), 11:19

R — Von Sheppard 61 pass from Taylor (Klein kick), 5:27

Drive: One play, 61 yards, :13

Second Quarter

W - Mark Diaz 29 pass from Jerry Mlinar (Chris Drennan kick), 13:24

Drive: Eight plays, 61 yards, 3:22

R - Micah Heibel 2 run (Dave Cheloha

kick), 5:47

Drive: Eight plays, 34 yards, 3:44

R - Todd Millikan 6 pass from Clete Blakeman (Mike Martin kick), :38

Drive: Eight plays, 59 yards, 3:41

W - Lorenzo Hicks 85 kickoff return (Drennan kick), :23

R - Brian Davis 67 interception return (Klein kick), :08

Third Quarter

R - Taylor 1 run (Klein kick), 17:28 Drive: Five plays, 23 yards, 1:22 R — Taylor 1 run (Klein kick), 11:38 Drive: Seven plays, 50 yards, 3:09

Fourth Quarter

R - Brinson 81 pass from McCathorn Clayton (Martin kick), 4:44 Drive: Two plays, 84 yards, :50

Team Statistics

	Reds	Whites
First downs	22	13
First downs rushing	14	8
First downs passing	8	5
First downs penalty	0	0
Rushing attempts	55	51
Yards gained rushing	264	189
Yards lost rushing	27	62
Net yards rushing	237	127
Net yards passing	208	104
Passes attempted	18	27
Passes completed	11	13
Passes intercepted	0	3
Total offensive plays	73	78
Total net yards	445	231
Average gain per play	6.1	2.9

Return yards	226	28
Fumble-lost	5-4	6-3
Penalties-yards	4-35	6-60
Interceptions-yards	3-97	0-0
Punts-average	4-42.8	10-31.1
Punt returns-yards	6-129	3-28
Kickoff returns-yards	0-0	8-197

Individual Statistics

Rushina

Reds - Steve Taylor 9-38, Ken Kaelin 4-14, Jon Kelley 10-91, Von Sheppard 1-(-3), Clete Blakeman 4-20, Micah Heibel 2-6, Jeff Wheeler 11-28, Dana Brinson 2-(-2), Mike Preston 2-1, Mike Radnov 3-19, Darrel Summers 2-5, Lawrence Pete 1-2, McCathorn Clayton 3-17, Brian Kehrli 1-

Whites - Clayton 6-20, Sam Schmidt 6-13, Dave Clare 7-11, Ray Nelson 2-44, Jerry Mlinar 4-(-2), Barry Kitrell 1-4, Ray Coleman 2-23, Pernell Gatson 2-1, Ron Galois 1-(-1), Jeff Micheel 5-11, Jamie Worden 1-(-2), Doug Dalton 3-9, Wendell Wooten 5-0, Blakeman 6-(-4).

Receiving

Reds - Sheppard 3-86, Steve Schneider 1-9, Todd Millikan 2-16, Wheeler 1-13, Kaelin 1-5, Heibel 1-7, Brinson 1-81, Summers 1-(-7).

Whites - Clare 3-10, Tony Avant 1-14, Mark Diaz 2-38, Hendley Hawkins 1-14, Nelson 2-9, Chip Bahe 2-16, Worden 1-8, Micheel 1-(-5).

Passing

Reds - Taylor 3-8-0, 81, 1 TD; Preston 2-2-0, 2; Blakeman 3-4-0, 27, 1 TD; Clayton 3-4-0, 98, 1 TD.

Whites - Clayton 1-8-1, 4; Mlinar 6-11-1, 68, 1 TD; Wooten 5-7-1, 25; Blakeman 1-1-0, 7.

Punting

Reds - John Kroeker 3-44.0, Scott

Whites — Craig Schnitzler 6-38.0, Jim Toner 3-24.6.

Punt Returns

Reds - Brinson 2-63, Cleo Miller 1-32, Sheppard 1-4, Robb Schnitzler 2-30.

Whites - Hicks 3-28.

Kickoff Returns

Reds - none.

Whites - Nelson 1-26, Clare 3-75, Hicks 4-96.

Interception Returns

Reds - Bryan Siebler 1-22, Brian Davis 1-67, Zachary Mackey 1-8. Whites - none.

OFFENSE

Split End — Robb Schnitzler, 5-9, 175, sr.; Jason Gamble, 5-11, 179, so.

Left Tackle - Rob Maggard, 6-3, 265, sr.; Keven Lightner, 6-2, 285, jr.

Left Guard — Stan Parker, 6-5, 270, sr.; Mike Hoefler, 6-5, 255, sr.

Center - Mark Cooper, 6-2, 250, sr.; John Nichols, 6-2, 265, jr.

Right Guard - John McCormick, 6-1, 265, jr.; Ron Galois, 6-2, 275, sr.

Right Tackle - Tom Welter, 6-5, 280, sr.; Brad Johnson, 6-3, 265, sr.

Tight End — Tom Banderas, 6-3, 240, jr.;

Todd Millikan, 6-3, 230, so. Quarterback - Steve Taylor, 5-11, 195,

so.; Clete Blakeman, 6-1, 190, jr. I-Back - Doug DuBose, 5-11, 190, sr.; Keith Jones, 5-10, 190, jr.; Jon Kelley, 6-1, 205, ir.

Fullback - Ken Kaelin, 5-10, 225, sr.; Tyreese Knox, 5-10, 215, so.

Wingback - Von Sheppard, 5-10, 185, ir.; Dana Brinson, 5-9, 170, so.

Placekicker - Dale Klein, 6-1, 195, sr.; Chris Drennan, 5-9, 175, so.

DEFENSE

Left End - Brad Tyrer, 6-2, 220, sr.; Broderick Thomas, 6-2, 235, so.

Left Tackle - Chris Spachman, 6-5, 265, sr.; Neil Smith, 6-6, 250, jr.

Middle Guard - Danny Noonan, 6-4, 280, sr.; Lawrence Pete, 6-2, 280, so.

Right Tackle - Lee Jones, 6-1, 230, jr.; Danny Groskurth, 6-4, 260, ir.

Right End — Tony Holloway, 6-3, 205, sr.; Jeff Jamrog, 6-2, 225, jr.

Strongside Linebacker - Kevin Parsons, 6-3, 240, sr.; LeRoy Etienne, 6-1,

Weakside Linebacker — Marc Munford, 6-3, 230, sr.; Steve Forch, 6-2, 240, sr.

Left Cornerback - Brian Davis, 6-3, 195, sr.; John Custard, 5-9, 175, so.

Right Cornerback — Charles Fryar, 5-10, 170, so.; Cleo Miller, 5-9, 180, sr.; Mike Carl, 5-11, 180, sr.

Monster - Brian Washington, 6-1, 220, jr.; Jeff Tomjack, 6-1, 205, jr.; Chris Carr, 6-2, 200, sr.

Safety - Bryan Siebler, 6-0, 195, sr.; Mark Blazek, 6-2, 200, jr.

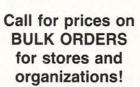
Punter - John Kroeker, 5-11, 180, so.; Craig Schnitzler, 5-8, 220, jr.; Dale Klein, 6-1, 195, sr.

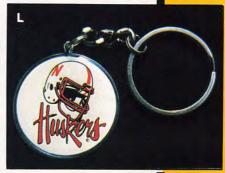
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uring the summers, Ken Kaelin speaks at some Fellowship of Christian Athletes meetings. At nearly all of those talks, Kaelin is approached by high school students asking him about his college football experiences.

"I look in their eyes and see they're in the same boat I was. I tell them if I made it anybody can make it," Kaelin said. "I was from a small town with all of these East Coast, West Coast blue-chippers. A lot of these kids in Nebraska are from small towns, but I doubt anybody could be from a smaller town the I am. With a lot of hard work, anyone can make it.'

Kaelin has made it as a fullback at Nebraska under those premises. The 5-foot-10 senior from Westville, Neb., (population 300) will start fall drills as the Cornhuskers' No. 1 player at that position.

"As far as being from a small town, the Lord has helped me realize that it doesn't matter where you grow up if your heart is right and your attitude is right," Kaelin said.

Still, four years ago Kaelin never dreamed he would be in the position he currently holds. He came to Nebraska in 1982 as a walkon, 180-pound I-back. A three-year starter at Ansley High School, Kaelin rushed for over a 1,000 yards in both his sophomore and junior seasons. But he suffered an ankle injury that limited him in all but one game his senior year. When he arrived in Lincoln, Kaelin, knowing his coaches were concerned about his injury, felt pressured just to make the team.

"The night before we tested (physical and agility qualities) I was really worried," he said. "There were about 80 or 90 walkons and I knew that those tests was where I could set myself apart. But Todd Brown (a former standout walkon receiver from Holdrege) set me down and straightened my attitude.

"Being a Christian, you've got to realize that you can do all things. He prayed with me at the 50-yard line in the stadium, and I learned to fear no man, but fear God respectively. From that time on, I wasn't intimidated even though I got killed on the scout team.'

Kaelin tested out second highest out of 120 players the next day.

But shortly into his freshman season, then Coach Frank Solich gave Kaelin a choice to switch to fullback which under the circumstances was one that he couldn't refuse.

"Doug DuBose was the No. 1 I-back then and once I thought about my 40 time being 4.7 electronic, I knew I wasn't going to cut it as an I-back here," Kaelin said. "I hadn't hardly contributed anything, after having had a couple pretty successful years in high school. I think Coach Solich was giving me one last shot, maybe giving me

Meet The Huskers Ken Kaelin

By Curt McKeever

a chance to see that football wasn't for me. But once I got my priorities straight, things started to fall in place."

Kaelin started worrying less about how

he'd fare, and aimed for higher goals. Through extensive weight training, he put on 45 pounds between his redshirt and sophomore seasons. Last year, Kaelin played behind starter Tom Rathman.

"When I came here my goals were not as high as they should've been," Kaelin said. " My goals were to make the team and to play a couple plays. I definitely moved them up after my sophomore year.

"It wasn't that people were telling me things that were devastating, I just expected it to take more than what I had to play. To me, Nebraska is just like the pros as far as making it. If I could make it, that would be as hard as anything.'

But just because he's worked his way into the No. 1 spot doesn't mean that Kaelin feels he's got it made.

'Consistency is the whole thing. Since I was No. 1 (entering spring drills), I wanted to give the coaches confidence in the things that need to be done right,' Kaelin said. "In that first game this fall I want Florida State to know that I'm going to be consistent on every play," whether he's blocking for DuBose or carrying the ball himself.

"In high school, I carried the ball 35 to 40 times a game. But when I switched to fullback here, instead of looking out for somebody, now I'm looking them up and trying to get the block every play," Kaelin said. "Now, I don't care if I run the ball because blocking is what it's all about here. If I make a good iso block on a linebacker that feels better than scoring a touchdown. Carrying the ball is just icing on the cake."

Another icing on the cake situation for Kaelin is his marriage with wife Jamie. Entering its third year, Kaelin credits that relationship for much of his success.

"She's my prayer warrior," he said. "She's there praying for me every game. During the season, I hardly get to talk to her, but she never complains. She's helped me a lot with my organization and we both know that after this year we'll feel the void of no football with our love and time.'

But for now, Kaelin is concentrating on making his final season as a Cornhusker one to remember.

'Last year I was totally content with giving Tom (Rathman) a rest whenever he waved at me," Kaelin said. "I remember after the Fiesta Bowl I talked to him a little and he told me he thought I could take right off where he left off.

"I'm so excited to play this fall and I'll just do the best I can, that's the attitude I took this spring and it ended up better than I thought. I know there's going to be lower times, as there is with everybody, but I've learned to overcome those. Just to contribute to this team is a blessing...and I can do that."

If his outlook has carried over to a teammate, Kaelin already has. •

he road Brad Tyrer has taken to the top is not what one would normally expect from a high school All-American.

Tyrer's road has had a few detours. But as he get ready for his senior season, the Huskers' No. 1 left defensive end isn't concerning himself with the past. To him, the 1986 season is payback time.

"I'm ready now. I just hope I can live up to it," Tyrer said. "My biggest fear is not performing well, not for myself, but for my team. I don't have any aspirations of going on and playing after college, so next year is going to be a big year for me.

"I just want to help out the team, to finally contribute a little bit and give back what they've given me with the scholar-

ship and everything."

Contributing on the field will be a relatively new role for Tyrer, the son of the late Kansas City Chief all-pro guard Jim Tyrer. A 1982 recruit from Kansas City Rockhurst, Tyrer received a hardship year when he dislocated a shoulder in the metro Kansas City all-star game and had to undergo surgery. He re-injured the shoulder during a practice with the Husker varsity and sat out the rest of the '82 season.

"I roomed with Chris Spachman and that was good because he was the only person I knew when I came up here," Tyrer said. "But once I got hurt, it was a little different story. I didn't really feel a part of the team. I didn't go to watch practice because it wasn't worth my time to go watch. One day Coach Osborne saw me at the training table and asked me where I'd been the past three months."

Tyrer returned to the freshman team in 1983, where he recorded 18 tackles and one fumble recovery as a starter. The following year, Tyrer played sparingly as a reserve. Last season, he was expected to challenge Brad Smith and Scott Tucker for playing time.

"I played about half the game at K-State, but besides that, heck, I was lucky to get in two series," Tyrer said. "I didn't go to Oklahoma State or Oklahoma, I didn't play against Florida State and I didn't play against New Mexico because I was hurt.

And standing on the sidelines was be-

ginning to affect him.

"I think for anybody, when you come up here, your dreams are pretty much shattered," Tyrer said. "Everybody comes up here wanting to step in and play right away to see how it is. It's been frustrating for me since I've been here."

But with the end of the '85 season came new hope...and a new position coach for Tyrer — Tony Samuel.

"He coaches a little different than Coach (George) Darlington. He makes it feel like I don't have any pressure on myself," Tyrer said. "With Darlington I felt a lot of pressure to do everything exactly perfect, whereas with Coach Samuel, he's letting

Meet The Huskers

By Curt McKeever

you play. When you do mess up he'll come over and he might say 'Do you know what you did wrong?' and if you say, 'Yeah,' that's it. It's not like you're going to get chewed out and embarrassed in front of the whole team. That bothered me.

"I needed a coaching change to get out of that habit. Coach Darlington couldn't count on me. He tried a little bit last year and I messed up."

Upon Samuel's arrival, not only did Tyrer's attitude change, but so did his play on the field.

"He changed our technique a lot. With Coach Darlington we tried to get underneath the man and stick him up," Tyrer said. "I think we were pretty much the only college still doing that.

"Samuel came in and we started using hands more to keep the guys away from you. I think that helped me a lot."

Tyrer started spring ball as the No. 2 left defensive end behind sophomore Broderick Thomas. Not long after, Tyrer was moved to No. 1, where he remained the rest of the spring.

"I knew it was up for grabs and I did what I wanted to do...come out on top," Tyrer said. "But Broderick's a good player and I'm sure he'll be playing just as much as I am next year. Still, there's a big question (at the defensive end position). Tony Holloway is pretty much the only guy who had much experience last year."

But Tyrer was eager to prove to Samuels that he was ready to step in.

"After the first day of spring practice I pretty much knew it was going to be going pretty good. I just had a good day and that pretty much set the tone for me," Tyrer said. "My first scrimmage was probably my best. It put a good positive image of myself in Coach Samuel's head and it boosted my own ego...and you have to have that. I knew I could do it then, it was just a matter of doing it all the time."

And now that he has the confidence, Tyrer feels very little pressure. This August, he'll graduate with a degree in speech communications. Tyrer will still be carrying a full load of classes this fall, but "it'll be nice," he said. "I'll be able to concentrate more on football."

Pressure, though, has really never bothered the 23-year-old. Even though his father played football professionally "my parents didn't push football at all," Tyrer said. "When I was a little kid my big sport was soccer. I went to a private school and they didn't have football. I always played flag football.

"Even when my dad played, I didn't follow the Chiefs all that much. He was gone quite a bit during the season and in the offseason he didn't talk about it that much. I see a lot of Husker fans that live and breathe football, but it wasn't that way with us. My dad never watched football on TV."

With that kind of upbringing, Tyrer felt no obligation to play football. When he did, and found out that he was drawing in-Continued on page 32

hen opportunity knocked, Danny Groskurth was there to answer the door. Now the junior walkon from Wisner-Pilger High School is in a position to play some football for Nebraska.

Specifically, Groskurth's position is right defensive tackle, where he'll enter fall camp as the top back-up to Lee Jones, another junior.

It was because of an injury to Jones that opportunity knocked for Groskurth.

Here's the way it happened.

A month before the start of spring practice, Jones underwent surgery on a shoulder which was injured during last year's Oregon game. Jones missed a week of practice and one game but came back to finish the season even though "sometimes when I came off the ball and hit somebody, it was like jerking my shoulder," he said.

Jones had hoped to be able to practice at least part of the spring, but the shoulder didn't heal as quickly as he thought it would, and he was forced to sit out the en-

tire four weeks.

Throughout that time, Groskurth was the No. 1 defensive tackle on the right side. "Without Lee being there, it's a plus for Danny because he's getting the experience and the work," Cornhusker defensive coordinator Charlie McBride said midway through the spring.

"It's good for him (Groskurth). It'll probably make him a better player. The pressure's on him. If Lee can come back and do it, that'll give us two guys there (at right tackle) who are relatively sound.'

Finding quality back-ups is always a priority in spring practice, and according to McBride and Coach Tom Osborne, Groskurth now fits that description. He's matured a lot.

Groskurth weighed only 200 pounds when he walked on at Nebraska, after a high school football career in which he played defensive end, defensive tackle, offensive tackle, fullback and kicker.

He missed half of his junior season with a knee injury which could have ended his football career. Groskurth sustained the injury while running with the ball. Such are the hazards of being a fullback...

He recovered, however, and played his senior year, well enough to consider walk-

ing on with the Cornhuskers.

Since Groskurth had attended Osborne's Big Red Football School two summers, the coaches were familiar with him. He also asked his high school football coach to send film to Nebraska in hopes he could walk on.

When the Cornhuskers responded by telling him he could, "that was a happy

day for me,"said Groskurth.

Being a 200-pound defensive tackle had its disadvantages. As a freshman, he played for the junior varsity, and "I got thrown all over the place," he said. "I was Meet The Huskers Danny Groskurth

a really small guy."

Still, Groskurth played well enough as a freshman to start a jayvee game. He recalls the experience fondly. "I thought that was an accomplishment," Groskurth said.

Probably his most valuable experience prior to last season came during a redshirt year in which he ran with the scout squad and regularly lined up across from former Cornhusker offensive linemen Mark Behning and Harry Grimminger. Surviving that was also a considerable accomplishment.

"Going against those guys, you learn

pretty quick," said Groskurth.

Last season, he got to play briefly in five varsity games. The first was the 63-0 victory over Oregon in which Jones was hurt. Groskurth went in late in the fourth quarter and was credited with a tackle. The way he remembers it, his technique wasn't very good, but he didn't forget the first rule in playing defense at Nebraska.

"Go full-speed, no matter what. Make a pile, get through the line, go as hard as you can. Mess things up. That's the whole idea if you forget your play," Groskurth said.

Groskurth and the other young players remembered more and more as spring practice progressed. At first, "it's like a giant traffic jam. There are so many things going on in front of them, so fast, they don't know what to do," said McBride. "But that's what spring practice is for.'

Groskurth's education in Nebraska's system of defense wasn't inhibited by overconfidence. "I've got to keep learning, getting my techniques down. I know

I have to improve," he said.

If the Cornhuskers are to have the kind of defense that can help them challenge Oklahoma for the Big Eight championship, players like Groskurth must play an important role.

That Jones missed spring practice is cause for some concern on the part of the Nebraska coaches. He has the physical ability to be a Big Eight quality player, but he doesn't have starting experience.

Last season, Jones and Neil Smith, another junior, were the back-ups to Chris

Spachman and Jim Skow.

Still, Jones has been around long enough "to know what I'm supposed to do. I know my techniques, stepping and everything. When fall comes, I'll be ready for it," said Jones. "If somebody's ahead of me, I'll just have to fight for my position."

He was all set to try out his shoulder the final week of spring practice, but McBride

said, "No."

Jones' adversity was a blessing to Groskurth, who stands 6-4 and now weighs 255

In the long run, both could benefit from the situation.

Over the years, dedicated walkons like Groskurth have played a key role in build-Nebraska's winning tradition. Though walkons are evaluated more thoroughly now than they were in the past, they remain an important part of the Continued on next page.

Tyrer

Continued from page 30

terest from major colleges, Tyrer could look at his options with an open mind.

After his parents died tragically when he was a junior, Tyrer moved in with his grandparents. His senior season, Rockhurst won the Missouri state championship. Tyrer was one of 11 seniors who received full rides from Division I schools.

"I didn't know anything about Nebraska football in high school because I didn't follow it much," Tyrer said. "I knew I wanted to stay pretty close and I kind of narrowed it down to the Big Eight. A good buddy of mine, Paul Migliazzo (now a starter at Oklahoma) and I were thinking of going to the same school, but it just didn't work out.

"I was the last out-of-state recruit Nebraska was going to give a scholarship to. (Defensive coordinator Charlie) McBride called me up and said 'We have one more left. Do you want it?' and I said, 'Sure.' I think right after that he called Paul and told him they didn't have any more and a couple of days later he committed to Oklahoma. It just seemed so straightforward around here compared to a lot of places."

Tyrer's path hasn't exactly been straightforward, but the anticipation of his final season makes that fact meaningless.

"It's going to be a good feeling when I contribute," he said.

Groskurth

Continued from page 31

Cornhusker recruiting process.

Football players who have grown up in small Nebraska towns still dream of one day lining up as Cornhuskers.

Groskurth has had that as a priority.

He has another, which he'd like to complete before the fall. The Nebraska sports information office has always listed his hometown as Beemer.

That may not seem like a crucial matter, but to the people at Wisner-Pilger High School it is. Ever since Groskurth became a Cornhusker, they've "been telling me to get it changed," Groskurth said of the listing. "Nebraska football is big in small towns."

When the opportunity to brag about one of their own knocks, they want to be able to open the door. •

Potpourri

Continued from page 16

west Missouri State; 7 — Brooklyn; 10 — at Kansas State; 17 — Colorado; 21 — at Iowa State; 24 — at Oklahoma; 28 — Missouri; 31 — Oklahoma State. February: 4 — at Kansas; 7 — at

February: 4 — at Kansas; 7 — at Colorado; 11 — Iowa State; 14 — Kansas State; 18 — at Missouri; 21 — Oklahoma; 25 — at Oklahoma State; 28 — Kansas.

March: 5-7 — at Big Eight Tournament in Kansas City, Mo.

Danny Nee, Nebraska's new head basketball coach, completed his staff of assistants and signed a pair of junior college players to letters of intent prior to the start of his summer camp.

In addition to Lynn Mitchem, who hired on immediately after Nee announced he was coming to Nebraska, the Cornhusker basketball staff includes Arden Reid, a highly successful high school coach from Lancaster, Ohio; Gary Bargen, previously the coach of perennial power Hutchinson, Kan., Junior College; and Gary Grace, a graduate assistant who came to Nebraska from Lexington St. Ann High School.

Bargen was hired following Fran Fraschilla's announcement that he had changed his mind and would return to coach at Ohio University. Fraschilla originally came with Nee from Ohio.

The junior college recruits both played for Bargen at Hutchinson JC.

Vick, a 6-6½ forward from Chicago, was Hutchinson's leading rebounder and third-leading scorer. He averaged 11.9 points and 7.5 rebounds per game for a team that finished 31-7 and third in the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament.

Vick shot 54 percent from the field, blocked 33 shots and made 62 steals.

He is a graduate of Corliss High School in Chicago.

Buchanan, a 6-1 point guard from Muncie, Ind., averaged 9.1 points and 4.0 rebounds per game for Hutchinson Junior College and set school records for assists (209) and steals (74). He hit 82.6 percent of his free throws.

Buchanan is a graduate of Southside High in Muncie, the school which also produced Cornhusker forward Deak Vance, who's battled academic problems.

The 25-year-old Buchanan, who spent four years in the U.S. Air Force, will be the third point guard from Muncie to play for Nebraska. Senior Brian Carr and the late Jack Moore are the others. Carr played at Burris High School; Moore attended Muncie Central.

"We feel that both of these players are capable of coming in and helping us," said Nee. "Derrick Vick is a fine allaround forward. He can score; he can rebound, and he can play defense. Henry Buchanan has excellent quickness and the maturity to be a fine Division I point guard."

At least three members of last year's Cornhusker team have indicated they'll transfer: guards Darren Brown and Milt Shobe and center Scott Bullock. Shobe and Bullock were redshirts last year.

another new coach

The Nebraska women's basketball team will have a new head coach for the 1986-87 season. She's 29-year-old Angela Beck, who comes to the Huskers from Bradley University, where her teams compiled a 38-44 record in three seasons. The Lady Braves were 16-12 in the 1985-86 season.

Beck, sixth coach in the 12-year history of the Nebraska women's basketball program, replaces Kelly Hill, who was asked to resign following an 11-17 season.

Beck is a native of Decatur, Ill., where she was a basketball All-American at Millikin University. She earned a B.A. degree in physical education, health and coaching from Millikin in 1979 and completed an M.A. degree in coaching administration at nearby Illinois State in 1980.

She began her coaching career at Southeast Missouri State, where she was 54-34 in three seasons.

"I think I've got the enthusiasm of Jimmy (Valvano) and the determination of Bobby Knight. Other than Jody Conradt (Texas women's coach), whom I respect, I mold myself around men. They have a lot to teach me," Beck said.

She teaches her players up-tempo basketball. "Characteristically, I believe in a fast-break style, but not just filling a lane. I'm talking about a highly organized break system. If we don't hit off the fast break, then I believe in a quick-hit offense."

The Nebraska women's schedule for 1986-87 will test that offense:

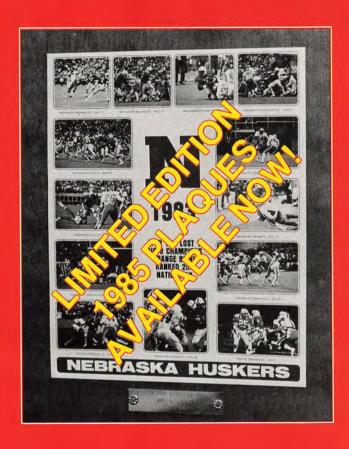
November: 28-29 — Nebraska Invitational (Tulsa, Ball State, Montana State).

December: 2—Iowa; 6—at Creighton; 13—Montana; 19—at Nebraska-Omaha; 29-30—at Stanford, Calif., Invitational (Virginia, Stanford, Illinois).

January: 1 — at Santa Clara; 3 — Creighton; 6 — at De Paul; 7 — at Loyola of Chicago; 10 — at Washburn; 14 — at Kansas State; 17 — Colorado; 21 — at Iowa State; 24 — at Oklahoma; 28 — Missouri; 31 — Oklahoma State.

February: 4 — at Kansas; 7 — at Colorado; 11 — Iowa State; 14 — Kansas State; 18 — at Missouri; 21 — Oklahoma; 25 — at Oklahoma State; 28 — Kansas.◆

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NOONAN

Huskers' senior middle guard ranks as one of the leading candidates for the 1986 Outland Award.

By Mike Babcock

Outlandish. That's about the best way to describe Danny Noonan.

The Nebraska senior is an extraordinary college football player. What's peculiar about him is, he can move so quickly for one so big.

During pre-winter conditioning tests, the 6-foot-2, 285-pound Noonan, who can bench press 485 pounds, ran a 40-yard dash in 4.88 seconds.

The :04.88 is an electronic time, which means a more conventional hand-held time would be even faster. Now that's peculiar...or unique, if you prefer

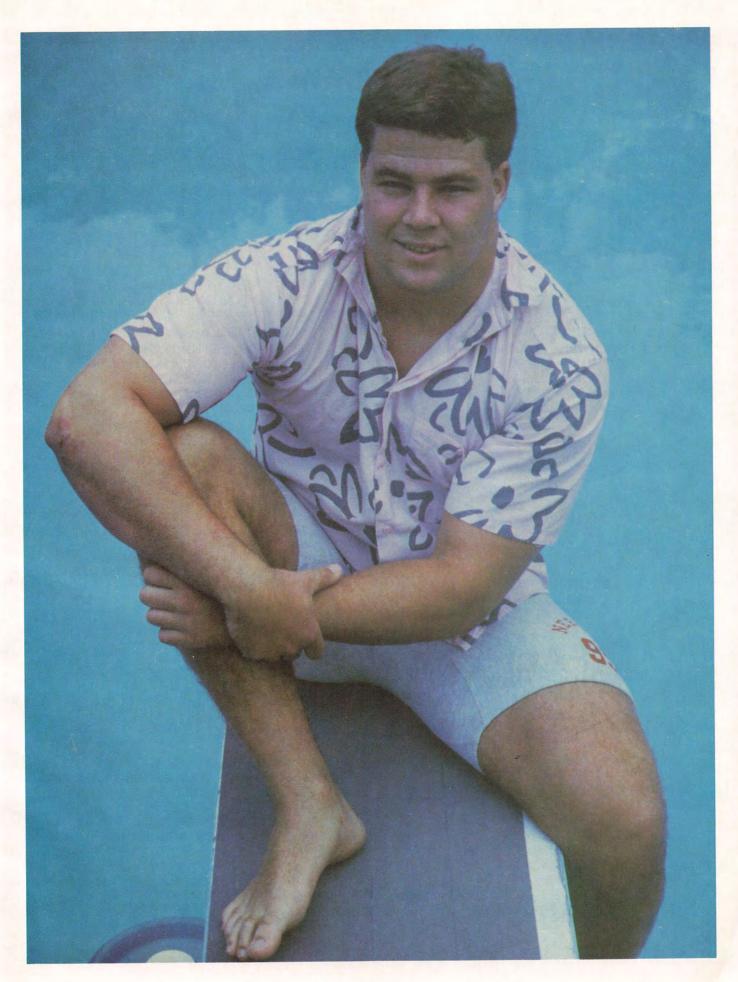
a different adjective.

In any case, Noonan really is Outlandish.

Charlie McBride, the Cornhuskers' defensive coordinator and coach of the defensive line, takes that description literally.

He thinks Noonan is good enough to warrant consideration for the Outland Trophy, awarded annually to the nation's best college lineman.

If you're not up on Nebraska football history, there are already five Outland trophies on display in the lobby of the South Stadium. The trophies were





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Noonan's dedication in the weight room has helped put him in All-American contention.

put there by former Cornhuskers Larry Jacobson, Rich Glover, Dave Rimington and Dean Steinkuhler. Rimington, who's now playing center for the NFL's Cincinnati Bengals, brought two back to Lincoln.

No other school has more than five.

The trophy case also includes three Lombardi Awards, one each from Glover, Rimington and Steinkuhler. If Nebraska were a good indicator, it would seem these things must grow on trees.

They don't, of course.

Anyway, McBride considers Noonan good enough to win both the Outland and the Lombardi this fall, the way Glover, Rimington and Steinkuhler did. Nebraska's No. 1 middle guard "has a chance to be an All-American," says McBride. "He's that good.

"Noonan may be the best noseguard in the country this year. I thought he was as good a noseguard as there was in our conference last season, and that's including the

Oklahoma guy.'

Wait a minute. The "Oklahoma guy" to whom McBride refers is Tony Casillas, last year's Lombardi Award winner and the second player chosen in the National Football League's 1986 free agent draft.

Is Noonan really that good?

"We'll just see," says McBride, who's never been one to get carried away with hollow praise.

McBride may not be the E.F. Hutton of college football coaches, but his word is good and what he says is worth listening

Noonan's stock is on the rise, according to McBride, not only because of his strength and speed but also because "he uses his hands amazingly well. He controls the middle very well. It's hard to knock him out of there," McBride says. "You can't intimidate him. You may get him on one play, but you'd better hang on the next five.

Hanging on is about the best way to deal with Noonan.

It's the only way for a lot of offensive linemen. Noonan's the kind of player who's forced changes in the NCAA rules to allow for more latitude in defining offensive holding.

"Danny probably doesn't have the quickness of a lot of the noseguards we've had here, but he occupies space, and the linebackers can work pretty well behind him," says McBride.

Nebraska has a tradition of quality middle guards, dating back to the early years of the Bob Devaney Era.

The Cornhuskers have had six All-Big Eight first-team middle guards during that time, beginning with Walt Barnes in 1964. Wayne Meylan was first-team all-conference twice, in 1966 and 1967. Ken Geddes earned that recognition in 1969, after moving to middle guard from linebacker.

Nebraska's Ed Periard was the All-Big Eight middle guard in 1970, and Glover was in 1971 and 1972, the year he won both the Outland and Lombardi. Kerry Weinmaster was the Cornhuskers' most recent first-team all-conference middle guard, in 1979.

Meylan, a 6-0, 239-pounder from Bay City, Mich., and Glover, a 6-1, 234-pounder from Jersey City, N.J., were two-time All-Americans.

Barnes, a 6-3, 235-pounder from Chicago, earned All-American recognition as a defensive tackle his senior year, 1965.

None of the six were as big and strong as Noonan.

Periard, who stood 5-9 and weighed 201 pounds, and Weinmaster, 6-0, 217 pounds, were particularly small as college middle guards go. They both had to rely on exceptional quickness to survive in the Big Eight.

Quickness is an asset even for middle guards as strong as Noonan, of course.



Noonan has been the hub of two great Husker defenses and plans to do the same in 1986.

The play of Casillas provides dramatic evidence of that.

Casillas, who's about the same size as Noonan, "was big, but he did a lot of stunting," Noonan says. "He was more of a finesse player."

During Nebraska's 27-7 loss to national champion Oklahoma in Norman last season, Bill Lewis, the Cornhuskers' All-American center, "would get a really good block, but Casillas would run around it," says Noonan, who wouldn't think of playing middle guard that way.

Nebraska's defensive schemes are much more disciplined than Oklahoma's, and if Noonan played with the abandon of Casillas, "Coach McBride would have me hanging. I'd be shot for doing something like that," he says. "You play Coach McBride's way or you don't play. I learned that as a freshman."

Noonan learned a lot of things as a freshman, and he learned them quickly. He played defensive tackle for an undefeated junior varsity team. In five games, he was credited with 20 tackles, 10 of them unassisted. He finished with three quarterback sacks for 21 yards in losses, recovered two fumbles and broke up one pass. pass.

Noonan impressed McBride enough

that he was included on the varsity travel roster for the final game of the 1983 season against Oklahoma. With Mike Keeler and Jim Skow both slowed by injuries, McBride needed some insurance at defensive tackle, so he took Noonan.

Noonan didn't get into the Cornhuskers' 28-21 victory, not one play.

"I wasn't even close," says Noonan, who stood on the sideline and watched that damp, gray afternoon at Owen Field in Norman. "I didn't really want to go out there. I knew enough. I knew what defenses we were running, but physically I wasn't ready."

Not ready physically?

Looking at Noonan now, it's difficult to believe he was ever not ready physically. But when he was tested for the first time as a Cornhusker freshman, his 40-yard dash time was :05.14, he bench pressed 315 pounds and weighed a little over 200 pounds — he told McBride he weighed 220 pounds, "but Coach McBride knew I was lying," he says with a smile.

Noonan's physical development is the result of an unrelenting dedication to Nebraska's strength and conditioning program.

"Danny wants to be good," McBride says. "He reminds me a lot of Rod Horn the way he works in that weight room to get stronger."

Horn, a former Cornhusker defensive tackle who went on to play middle guard for the Cincinnati Bengals in the Super Bowl before retiring, was one of the most dedicated weight lifters in recent Nebraska football history. Being compared to him is high praise, indeed.

At the end of spring practice, Noonan and defensive tackle Chris Spachman were voted by their teammates as co-winners of the award as the "Lifter of the Year."

Noonan, who hasn't redshirted, was an alternate defensive tackle behind Spachman as a true sophomore, making 26 tackles, 17 of them unassisted. He also finished with six quarterback sacks, the second highest total on the team behind Spachman's seven.

Noonan made a significant contribution during a season in which the Cornhuskers ranked first in the nation in both total defense (203.3 yards per game) and scoring defense (9.5 points per game). Nebraska

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allowed only 13 touchdowns, six by rushing, seven by passing, and yielded an average of just 78.8 rushing yards per game.

Late in the spring of his sophomore year, Noonan was moved from defensive tackle to middle guard to shore up a position hit by injuries to Phil Rogers and Lawrence Pete, who was a freshman.

Ken Shead, who'd been projected as a starter, was held out of spring practice because of grade problems.

Noonan didn't mind the switch.

In fact, "I was all for it," he says. "I had a feeling that Coach McBride would move me."

The responsibilities of a middle guard weren't completely foreign to Noonan, who played the position as a junior at Lincoln Northeast High School. He moved out to tackle his senior year only because the Rockets changed from a 5-2 to a 4-3 defensive alignment.

Since he doesn't possess exceptional quickness, "I think I'm better suited to noseguard," says Noonan, who had begun to settle in and feel comfortable at his new position by the second game last season.

Despite his background, the adjustment wasn't instantaneous, of course. "At first, I was trying to do too many things," Noonan says. "I was trying to finesse guys, and I'm not that kind of player."

Prior to a 52-25 victory over Illinois in which Noonan sacked Illini quarterback Jack Trudeau three times for 21 yards in losses, "I knew something was missing. I knew I wasn't doing something right," he says.

Trudeau was pressured into throwing four interceptions during that game at Memorial Stadium, and "everything just fell into place" for Noonan. "Ever since then, I've felt comfortable (at middle guard)."

Last fall, Noonan made 47 tackles, 33 unassisted and 14 for losses totaling 78 sacks. For the second year in a row he was second on the team in quarterback sacks, finishing with 11 for 69 yards in losses.

Only Skow, an All-American, had more,

Getting to the quarterback before he can release the ball on a pass play is Noonan's idea of "a lot of fun." The key on a pass rush is to get the center moving backward, "and then you can spin off him or do some other things," says Noonan, who obviously puts that :04.88 speed in the 40-yard dash to good use in passing situations.

Whether the play is a run or a pass, it usually begins with some mind games between Noonan and the interior of the offensive line. Before he gets down in his stance, he checks the center and the guards, looking for keys which might signal their intentions.

The ability to identify and read such signs is a function of experience. For example, "I'll look at the guards to see if they're sitting back on their haunches,"



Danny and his dog, Dublin, on the diving board at the family pool.

Noonan says. "When they're going to double-team, they usually cut down their splits. Those are things you pick up as you get older and you see what blocking schemes there are."

In most cases the confrontation with which Noonan must concern himself first is the one with the center.

"It depends on how you play, but if you get into that center really good, that's half the battle. If you get him neutralized, it closes down the hole and there's less room for the back to run," Noonan says.

In Nebraska's defensive scheme, the middle guard and the tackles are first concerned with disrupting the blockers, creating confusion and in so doing free up the linebackers to make the tackles.

Noonan has always contributed his share of tackles in important games, however. He responds well under pressure, another quality which the Football Writers Association of America voters should take into consideration when they select their Outland Trophy winner next December.

In the Cornhuskers' loss to Oklahoma last season Noonan made a career-high nine tackles, a total he equaled in the Sunkist Fiesta Bowl loss to Michigan. He also sacked Wolverine quarterback Jim Harbaugh once.

Nebraska has learned from those two losses, according to Noonan, who thinks this year's Black Shirt defense is potentially as good as the one in 1983.

"Toward the end of last season, we got a little overconfident, I think," says Noonan. "Our attitude wasn't that good."

He can't explain why that was, but he knows it won't be a problem this fall. Some 50 or 60 Cornhuskers remained in Lincoln this summer to work out and prepare for the season. In addition to the strength and conditioning work, "just being together will help," Noonan says.

Noonan expects to see a lot of familiar faces — or helmets — when he lines up in the fall. Most of the centers against whom he played a year ago are back, beginning with Florida State's Jim Hendley and concluding with Oklahoma's Travis Simpson, who "was pretty cocky. He was talking to me a little bit during last year's game."

Noonan's never been one to talk much during a game. That's why all the publicity surrounding his candidacy for the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award makes him a little uneasy.

Besides, "you can't just go out and say, 'I'm going to win the Outland.' There's so much publicity involved, and it's not always the best guy who gets it, anyway," says Noonan.

"There are so many factors."

Still, he'd like to be the second middle guard in a row to win the Outland Trophy carried home by Mike Ruth of Boston College in 1985.

Ruth was only the third player identified as a middle guard to win the trophy. The others were Glover and Ohio State's Jim Stillwagon in 1970. Six of the last eight Outland Trophy winners have been offensive linemen.

Outlandish? Not really.

Noonan, whose picture is on Nebraska's 1986 pocket schedules, is wellprepared for his senior season. "I felt I had a pretty good spring, the best one I've had since I've been here," he says.

Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne

wouldn't argue with that.

After the annual spring intrasquad game, Osborne noted: "The second offense had trouble generating anything against the first defense as long as Spachman and Noonan were in there. It was just really hard to get much going. Take those two guys out of there, and they (second-teamers) had a chance."

That's some "Outlandish" talk.

OUTLAND TROPHY WINNERS

(Honoring the outstanding interior lineman, selected by the Football Writers Association of America)

1946 — George Connor, Notre Dame, T

1947 — Joe Steffy, Army, G 1948 — Bill Fischer, Notre Dame, G

1949 - Ed Bagdon, Michigan State, G

1950 - Bob Gain, Kentucky, T

1951 - Jim Weatherall, Oklahoma, T

1952 - Dick Modzelewski, Maryland, T

1953 - J.D. Roberts, Oklahoma, G.

1954 - Bill Brooks, Arkansas, G

1955 - Calvin Jones, Iowa, G

1956 - Jim Parker, Ohio State, G

1957 - Alex Karras, Iowa, T

1958 - Zeke Smith, Auburn, G

1959 - Mike McGee, Duke, T

1960 - Tom Brown, Minnesota, G

1961 - Merlin Olsen, Utah State, T

1962 — Bobby Bell, Minnesota, T

1963 - Scott Appleton, Texas, T

1964 — Steve DeLong, Tennessee, T 1965 — Tommy Nobis, Texas, G 1966 — Loyd Phillips, Arkansas, T

1967 - Ron Yary, Southern Cal, T

1968 - Bill Stanfill, Georgia, T

1969 - Mike Reid, Penn State, DT

1970 — Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State, MG

1971 - Larry Jacobson, Nebraska, DT

1972 - Rich Glover, Nebraska, MG

1973 - John Hicks, Ohio State, DT

1974 - Randy White, Maryland, DE

1975 - Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma, DT

1976 — Ross Browner, Notre Dame, DE

1977 - Brad Shearer, Texas, DT

1978 — Greg Roberts, Oklahoma, G

1979 — Jim Ritcher, North Carolina State, C

1980 - Mark May, Pittsburgh, OT

1981 — Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C

1982 — Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C

1983 - Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska, G

1984 - Bruce Smith, Virginia Tech, DT

1985 - Mike Ruth, Boston College, MG

VINCE LOMBARDI ROTARY AWARD WINNERS

(Honoring the outstanding college lineman of the year, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Houston)

1970 — Jim Stillwagon, Ohio State, MG

1971 - Walt Patulski, Notre Dame, DE

1972 - Rich Glover, Nebraska, MG

1973 — John Hicks, Ohio State, OT 1974 — Randy White, Maryland, DT

1975 - Lee Roy Selmon, Oklahoma, DT

1976 - Wilson Whitley, Houston, DT

1977 - Ross Browner, Notre Dame, DE

1978 - Bruce Clark, Penn State, DT

1979 - Brad Budde, Southern Cal, G 1980 - Hugh Green, Pittsburgh, DE

1981 - Kenneth Sims, Texas, DT

1982 - Dave Rimington, Nebraska, C

1983 — Dean Steinkuhler, Nebraska, G

1984 — Tony Degrate, Texas, DT

1985 - Tony Casillas, Oklahoma, MG

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"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me." (Philippians 4:13)

John Nichols draws strength from his religious faith.

One look and it's obvious Nebraska's 270-pound junior center has done quite well in developing his physical strength. But his spiritual development didn't really begin until midway through the football season his senior year at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo.

That's when Nichols first read the Biblical account of Samson and "the strength God provided him," said Nichols. "That's when I turned my life over to Christ."

Nichols' story goes much deeper than that, of course.

There was a reason for his religious awakening, a direct correlation between his love of football and his new-found faith, and it helps explain how he came to Nebraska in the first place.

The story begins during the summer before his senior year.

Nichols attended Coach Tom Osborne's Big Red Football School that summer and performed well enough to attract the attention of the Cornhusker coaches, who were impressed with his size and strength — he's always been a dedicated weight lifter.

Because of Nebraska's interest, he eagerly approached his final football season at Columbine High, figuring if he continued to be successful, the Cornhuskers would offer him a scholarship.

"The first four games, nothing was happening," Nichols said.

Nebraska was in Colorado to play the Buffaloes the weekend of his fifth game, and Nichols knew Milt Tenopir, a Cornhusker assistant and offensive line coach, would be there to scout him.

The way Nichols saw it, his future depended on that one game. If he played poorly, Nebraska might lose interest.

With the inspiration he got from reading the story of Samson and how he was given the strength to slay 1,000 men with the jawbone of an ass, Nichols went out and played well against a team from Arvada, Colo., that included Al Laurita, who's now an offensive guard for the defending national champion Oklahoma Sooners.

That's when "I set my eyes on God," said Nichols.

Faith sustained him through his first three years at Nebraska, but it didn't help him move up at center. Until last spring, it appeared he was destined to remain near the bottom of the depth chart, the subject of the standard whatever-happened-to questions that go with being a much-publicized recruit who has to wait to play.

Nebraska won a recruiting battle with Colorado for Nichols, who's still more at home in the Rocky Mountains than on the Great Plains.

He returned to Colorado after the first



Nichols Hoping Center Tradition

Former Colorado Blue Chipper has turned to God for strength and determination — but he's still got to win job against Cooper and Sellentin.

summer session of classes at Nebraska, not only so he could train at altitude but also so he could take advantage of the outdoor recreational opportunities the state provides.

The Cornhuskers landed three other scholarship recruits from Colorado in 1983, linebacker Marc Munford, another athlete from Littleton, split end Rod Smith from Thornton and middle guard Stephen Thomas, who's since transferred to Iowa.

Colorado was Nichols' second choice.

He was tempted to stay in-state, but "I didn't go to Colorado because I didn't want to be a building block," he said. "I

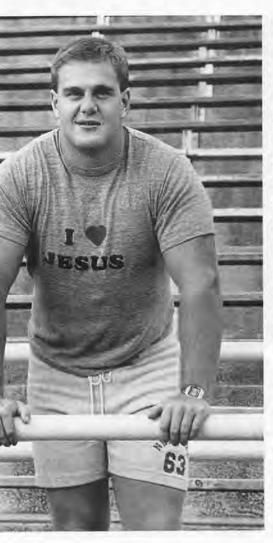
like (Buffalo) Coach McCartney. He's a good Christian man, but..."

Cornhusker Coach Tom Osborne is a good Christian man, too, and his teams have always been winners. Until last season, in which Colorado finished 6-5 and played in a bowl game, the Buffaloes had struggled under three coaches.

Osborne's teams also have been characterized by outstanding offensive linemen,

many of them centers.

At the time Nichols was being recruited, "Dave Rimington was a big name, and I got to meet him after the Colorado game (with Nebraska). He was my



Huskers' Continues

idol then," Nichols said of the two-time Outland Trophy winner.

That meeting served to solidify a decision Nichols has never regretted.

He's never had a problem returning to Colorado, a state in which Nebraska traditionally has had recruiting success. Even though McCartney has publicly tried to create a bitter rivalry between the Cornhuskers and Buffaloes, "most people back home respect my decision," Nichols said. "They ask me what it's like here."

Actually, it hasn't been much fun for Nichols until now.

He started for the Cornhusker junior varsity as a freshman, "but I still had a lot to learn," said Nichols, who briefly imBattling for the starting center job this fall will be (left to right), Mark Cooper, Jeff Sellentin and John Nichols.

agined himself playing as a true sopho-

But his experience was the same as that of every offensive lineman who comes to Nebraska. There's so much to learn and so much maturity required to compete at the varsity level that a redshirt year has become almost mandatory, as Nichols found out. Early in spring practice his freshman year, "the first or second day, Coach Osborne asked me to redshirt."

Since Mark Traynowicz was the Cornhuskers' No. 1 center at the time, Nichols really didn't mind sitting out a season.

Traynowicz, who now plays for the Buffalo Bills of the National Football League, was one of five All-American centers Nebraska has had in the last 11 years. Rik Bonness was the first in that group, which includes Rimington, Tom Davis and Bill Lewis.

Bonness and Rimington each earned All-American recognition in back-to-back

Nebraska's tradition of All-American centers goes back to 1932, when Lawrence Ely earned that recognition playing for the legendary D.X. Bible. In 1937, the Cornhuskers' Charles Brock was an All-American center, and in 1949 Tom "Train Wreck" Novak was, despite playing for a team that finished 4-5.

In recent seasons. Nebraska centers have dominated the Big Eight. A Cornhusker has been the first-team all-conference center each of the last seven years and 10 of the

Bonness was All-Big Eight in 1974 and 1975. Davis was all-conference in 1977; Kelly Saalfeld in 1979; Rimington in 1980, 1981 and 1982; Traynowicz in 1983 and 1984; and Lewis in 1985.

Nebraska's other All-Big Eight centers in the Bob Devaney-Tom Osborne Era were Lyle Sittler in 1964 and Kelly Peterson in 1966. Interestingly enough, all of those centers except Lewis were Nebraskans.

In any case, Nichols' redshirt season was bearable. Even though a knee injury hampered his development, he was just thankful the injury, which occurred during a station scrimmage, wasn't more serious. Ligaments which might have been torn were only stretched.

The problem was, Nichols still hadn't established himself as a major college football player going into the fall of his third year at Nebraska. In the Cornhuskers' system, that's usually the time a player is expected to be ready to contribute in some

He finally began to assert himself. "I felt

I had a good fall," said Nichols. "But I knew it was too little, too late."

At Nebraska, positions are almost always won in the spring, not the fall, so Nichols was forced to spend another season with the scout squad.

Understandably, "that was really hard," Nichols said.

What made it even harder was a growing pessimism based on rumors that "some of the coaches were saying that I was never going to play. That was kind of scary," he said. "If you don't play well for so long, you start to wonder what the coaches are thinking."

Those fears grew as last season progres-

Finally, Nichols made a decision to dedicate himself to preparing for spring practice. "I started thinking last October that I needed to go for it or put my eggs in another basket," Nichols said.

He meditated and "did a lot of praying." One night, those prayers were answered.

"I had the green light," said Nichols. "I realized that if I was ever going to make my move, it would have to be this spring. I've never been a quitter or anything, but I felt if I wasn't making a contribution by next season, then maybe the coaches ought to give my scholarship to somebody who could contribute."

Nichols knew that "getting off the ball was the key" to moving up, so he played a lot of racquetball during the off-season to improve his quickness, practiced firing out on all fours, worked on snapping the ball and concerned himself mentally with "not being intimidated by opponents."

After recovering from his knee injury, "I was 100 percent physically but not 100 percent mentally."

He had lingering doubts; that's where his faith played a part.

A much more confident Nichols reported for spring practice in 1986.

"Center wasn't as locked up as it had been, and I knew if I worked hard, there was even a chance to start next season," he

The departure of Lewis left the position wide-open.

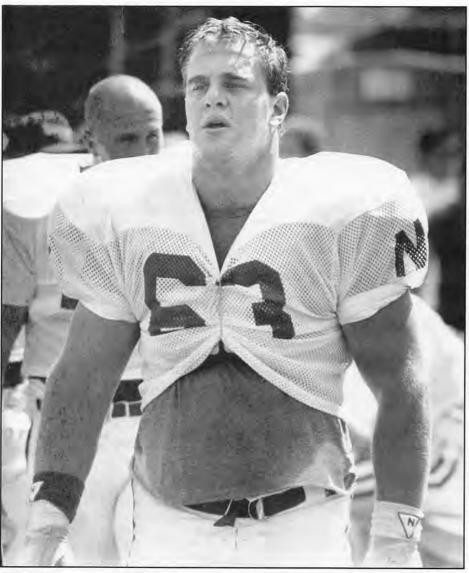
Mark Cooper went into spring practice as the No. 1 center, with Jeff Sellentin at No. 2.

Both are senior walkons.

By the end of the spring, Nichols, who began at No. 3, had passed Sellentin on the depth chart. The competition has been spirited but friendly.

"Jeff, Coop and I are all battling, but there's never really been any tension," Nichols said.

At 6-1 and 230 pounds, Cooper lacks the size of recent Cornhusker centers. With him as the starter this fall, "we won't have a center, probably, with the same physical tools as we've had the last four or five years. He's not as big or maybe quite as strong, but he's a very valuable player.



Nichols worked hard this spring to challenge for the No. 1 spot.

Mark's played when it was tough," said

Cooper's experience has given him an edge over Sellentin and Nichols.

When Lewis suffered a knee injury in last year's Oklahoma State game, Cooper stepped in and performed well. The next week, the former All-City performer out of Lincoln East High School played every snap during a 28-20 victory over Missouri in Columbia.

He and quarterbacks McCathorn Clayton and Travis Turner had only one miscue during the entire game, played on a slippery Faurot Field.

Afterward, Tenopir said Cooper "did a heckuva job. I watched him closely on almost every play. He worked his tail off in there."

All three centers have done that.

Sellentin, who's from West Point, weighed 200 pounds and could bench press only 255 pounds when he walked on at Nebraska. He'll go into fall camp weighing over 255 pounds.

During testing last winter, Sellentin

bench pressed 355 pounds.

Nichols knew his preparations had paid off by the first Saturday scrimmage of the spring. He was still uncertain until then, particularly because the Cornhusker coaches experimented briefly with Tim Rother at center.

Rother, who began as an offensive tackle, was later moved to defensive tackle, where it appears he'll provide some much-needed depth.

In any case, Nichols' hopes soared prior to the first scrimmage, when "I talked to the coaches, and they said they were really happy with the way I was coming off the

During the second scrimmage, Nichols got his chance to work with the first team, and he responded, thanks, in part, to some encouragement from teammates Stan Parker and Ken Kaelin.

Kaelin, a senior fullback from Westerville, kept reminding him of the wisdom in Philippians 4:13.

Nichols met Kaelin and Parker, an offensive guard, through the Fellowship of

Christian Athletes, which includes several current Cornhuskers, among them offensive linemen Mike Hoefler and Brad Johnson, as members.

Former Nebraska quarterback Craig Sundberg also helped Nichols hang on until his chance finally came.

Nichols is excited about the upcoming season. The Cornhuskers play Colorado and Illinois on the road, and since they usually include three centers on the travel squad, even if Nichols doesn't stay No. 2, "I should be able to go," he said.

Both trips will be homecomings for Nichols, who was born in Chicago and lived there until he was eight years old.

Being in a position to play has been worth the wait.

"It's something special to me," said Nichols. "It's taken a long time, but I think I made the right choice. The ultimate is to play, but to be in a winning program, you've got to sacrifice. This feeling that I'll be playing a lot definitely overshadows everything else that's happened."

After three years of obscurity, a lot of his friends in Colorado were beginning to wonder if he had given up football. "A couple of people asked me if I was ever going to play at Nebraska," he said.

"That was a humbling experience."

But now he is going to play; the evidence is clear. At the end of spring drills, Osborne was asked to list some of the most pleasant surprises. Nichols was among them, Osborne said.

Back home, "my mom saw a Big Eight prospectus in the Rocky Mountain News and it had my name in there," said Nichols, who received a copy of the newspaper in the mail.

"It was nice to see."

There, in print, was his name.

Nichols is convinced that all things are possible given the proper spiritual foundation. •

NEBRASKA'S ALL-BIG **EIGHT CENTERS**

(during Devaney-Osborne Era)

1985 - Bill Lewis, Sioux City, Iowa

1984 — Mark Traynowicz, Bellevue

1983 — Mark Traynowicz, Bellevue

1982 — Dave Rimington, Omaha

1981 — Dave Rimington, Omaha

1980 — Dave Rimington, Omaha

1979 — Kelly Saalfeld, Columbus

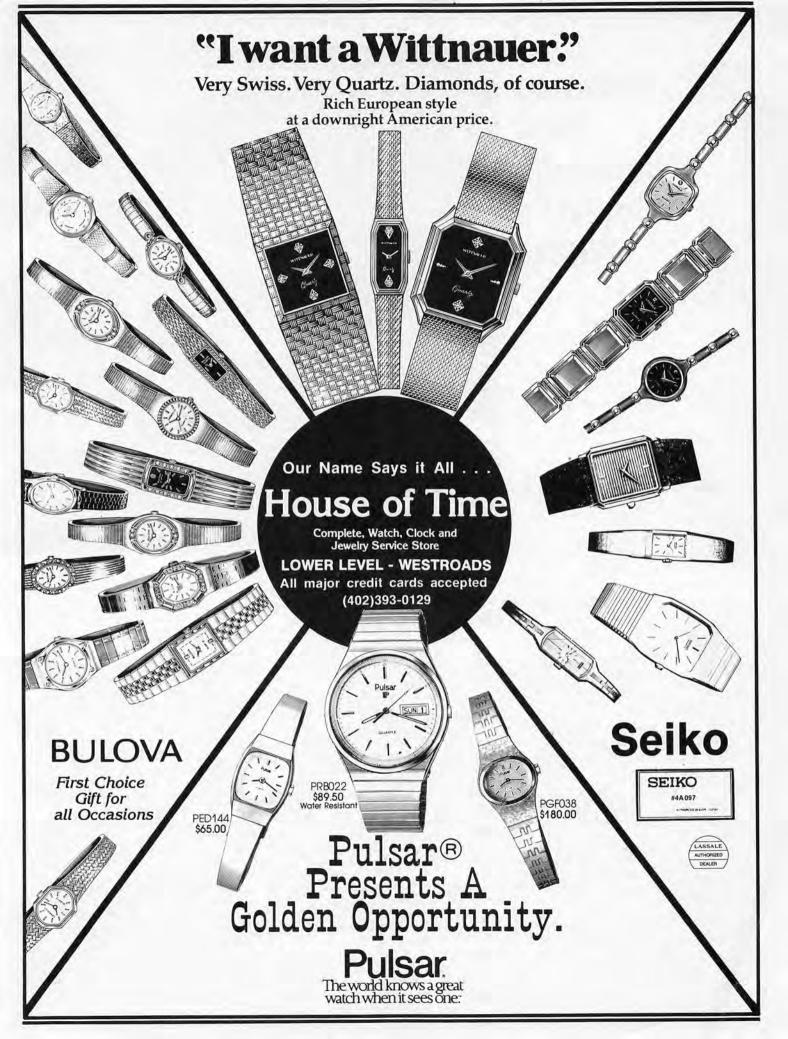
1977 - Tom Davis, Omaha

1975 - Rik Bonness, Bellevue

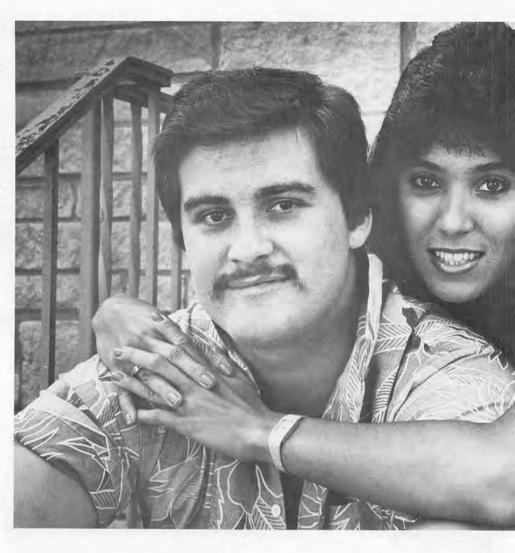
1974 — Rik Bonness, Bellevue

1966 — Kelly Peterson, Cozad

1965 - Lyle Sittler, Crete



Patience Paid Dividends For NU's Welter



By Mike Babcock

ou can't get here from there.
At least it must have seemed that way to Tom Welter when he was being recruited by the Nebraska football team four years ago.

Welter's home is in Yankton, S.D., which isn't all that far from Lincoln. But in the winter, when the snow falls, getting out of Yankton can be extremely difficult, as Welter discovered.

Nebraska was to be the first of six recruiting visits Welter planned to take during his senior year at Yankton High. "But every week I'd get snowed out," said Welter, the Cornhuskers' starting right tackle on offense. "I couldn't get out of town because there was so much snow."

He had to postpone his trip to Lincoln three times.

It became a routine. He'd call John Melton, the Cornhusker coach recruiting him, and say he couldn't make the trip because of the weather.

"It got to the point where they must

have thought I was trying to bluff them," Welter said.

Finally, he made the trip, driving to Lincoln from Sioux Falls, S.D., late on a Saturday night following a high school wrestling tournament in which he had competed. Welter, who weighed 229 pounds then, was a two-time South Dakota heavyweight champion.

I got recruited to wrestle by some Big 10 schools, but I never really gave it much thought," he said. "I don't know why. I liked wrestling a lot, but I didn't want to wrestle anymore."

Actually, he has wrestled since he's been at Nebraska. During his sophomore year, Welter filled in for Gary Albright, the Cornhuskers' All-American heavyweight who had suffered a shoulder injury.

Welter had two collegiate matches. "I went the distance both times and just about died," he said.

But that's another story ...

He arrived in Lincoln for his football re-

cruiting visit at 3 a.m. on a Sunday. He slept briefly, had breakfast with some Cornhusker players, attended church with Melton and then spent the day looking around town. That night he ate pizza and talked with some other recruits.

The next day, he returned to Yankton.

It wasn't much as recruiting trips go, but that didn't matter to Welter, who cancelled his other visits, scheduled for Minnesota, Georgia Tech, South Dakota State, South Dakota and Iowa State.

Soon after, he called Coach Tom Osborne and said he would accept Nebraska's offer of a scholarship. It was then that some feelings of uncertainty he had about himself began to dissipate.

Until schools began recruiting him, Welter never paid much attention to major college football. "I mean, I didn't even follow Nebraska, and I lived just one mile from the Nebraska border," said Welter.

Yankton is located in the southeastern corner of South Dakota, on the Missouri



Two of the best things Welter has going for him in addition to his football skills are girlfriend Louise Clinton and his talent at "hacky sack."

River. With Lewis and Clark Lake and Gavins Point Dam nearby, the area is a fisherman's paradise. Welter enjoys fishing, but football is his sport.

However, even though South Dakota has produced several well-known Cornhusker football players, among the most recent Outland Award winner Larry Jacobson from Sioux Falls, All-Americans John Dutton and Randy Schleusener from Rapid City, Kevin Seibel from Vermillion and Doug Herrmann from Custer, "the only thing I knew about Nebraska football was what my friends told me," Welter said. "They all followed it, but I didn't."

Nebraska has a tradition of producing outstanding offensive linemen. In the last 10 years, the Cornhuskers have had two dozen All-Big Eight offensive linemen, eight of them All-Americans: Schleusener, Dean Steinkuhler and Harry Grimminger, guards; Tom Davis, Dave Rimington, Mark Traynowicz and Bill Lewis, centers, and tackle Kelvin Clark.

But that reputation had no effect on 'Welter, who figures to be one of the best offensive linemen in the conference this

He planned to attend the Big Red Football Camp prior to his senior year but broke his ankle sliding into second base during a softball game and was forced to cancel the plans.

He hasn't played organized softball since then.

Welter didn't know if he wanted to continue playing football after his high school career was over. "When I started getting recruited by major colleges, I was kind of concerned about whether I was good enough to play at that level," he said. "I didn't know what to do. I was real confused at the time. But I came down here, saw the place and met the coaches, who made a real good impression on me.'

Proximity also was a factor in his decision to attend Nebraska.

Driving to Lincoln from Sioux Falls with his parents, "showed me how close it was, and my home was even two hours closer than that," Welter said. "So I thought, 'Heck, I'll just come down and give it a try.'

His earlier confusion "pretty much worked itself out."

Welter was a member of a scholarship recruiting class that included guard Stan Parker and tackle Rob Maggard, who will join him with the first-team offensive line this fall. About half of the 28 scholarship recruits in that class left Nebraska before their eligibility was up.

Welter wasn't about to quit, but given the way things went during his freshman year, he easily could have been one of

those who packed it in.

"It's really weird the way things happened to me down here," said Welter, who suffered a hairline fracture in a leg and was forced to redshirt his first season as a Cornhusker. While everyone else practiced and played for an unbeaten junior varsity team, he sat out.

That spring, when he was trying to make up for lost time and establish himself, Welter suffered through the personal loss of his father, Delvin, who died about three weeks into spring drills.

"Usually for an offensive lineman, your first spring is like, 'Which way do I go?' " said Welter. "It was pretty scary that first time because I'd never been through one. When they put all the tackles together, I think I was in the back of the line.

"I didn't know what to do. I didn't get many repetitions that spring so it probably wasn't that valuable."

His father's death magnified those problems, dramatically.

"You're so confused anyway, and it was like all of a sudden a bomb got dropped on me," Welter said. "But I went home, got back (to Lincoln) on a Monday, went out on the field and finished up the last week of spring practice. You've got to go on.'

Being a Cornhusker freshman in 1983

- which Welter was in eligibility after being forced to sit out - was a blessing for someone as eager to play as he was. Nebraska had its "Scoring Explosion" offense, with Turner Gill, Mike Rozier and Irving Fryar, in 1983 and averaged 52 points a game during a 12-0 regular sea-

Whenever the Cornhuskers would explode with points, which they did regularly, the lower-unit players had opportunities to get into games. "They'd have the score up to 40-0 or something like that at halftime, and I'd get to play football in the third quarter as a freshman," said Welter. "I got to play in just about every home game. It was neat."

Because so many players suited up for home games, several had to wear duplicate numbers. Welter, who's always been an offensive right tackle, and center Bill Lewis both wore No. 68 on their jerseys.

NCAA rules allow duplicate numbers, as long as two players with the same number aren't in a game at the same time. That applies only if an official notices the duplication, of course. If not ...

'I think it happened in like two or three games that Bill (Lewis) and I got in at the

same time," Welter said.

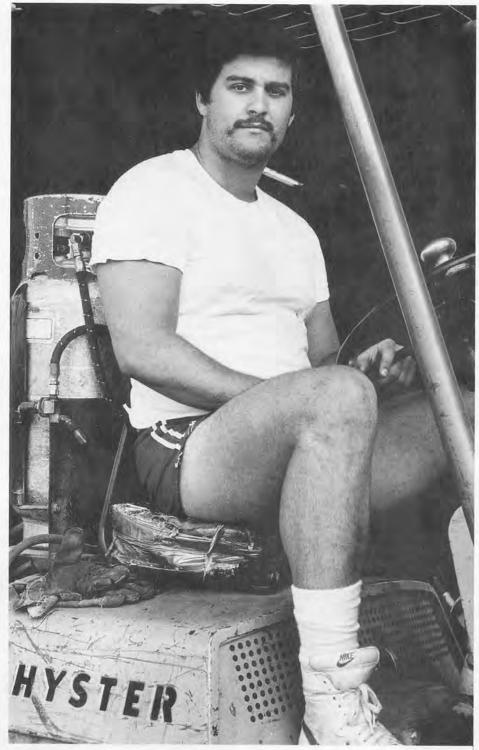
Though he was never included on the travel roster, Welter remembers that season with fondness. "I probably played more (with the varsity) as a freshman than I did my sophomore year," he said.

"It was really exciting."

He even got to travel with the team to Miami for its national championship battle with Miami in the Orange Bowl.

That meant Welter felt the Cornhuskers' frustration and disappointment first-





Welter drives a fork lift on his summer job.

hand after they lost to the Hurricanes, 31-30. He's still reminded of that trip, but in a pleasant way. That's when he met his girlfriend, Louise Cintron, an airline flight

attendant

Welter didn't play enough to earn a varsity letter as a third-year sophomore in 1984, a fact which was cause for frustration.

He and Maggard took turns going on road trips as the fifth tackle. "I was a 'swing' tackle, one who plays either side,"

said Welter, who didn't get to make the travel squad for Nebraska's nationally televised game with UCLA in the Rose Bowl. "That was kind of disappointing.

"That year was real hard for me, knowing I was at an age where I could be playing. I wasn't redshirted but I wasn't playing, either."

In retrospect, the disappointments of his sophomore year may have worked to his advantage. "I just got tired of sitting," Welter said. "I think it made me work a lit-

tle harder because I decided if I wasn't starting as a junior, I wouldn't be happy here. I wouldn't feel right if I was sitting on the bench again."

When practice began that spring, "I knew I couldn't be behind anybody and be satisfied."

Welter emerged from spring drills in 1985 as the No. 1 offensive tackle on the right side and started every game as a junior — Tim Roth, the left tackle, was the only other offensive lineman who started every game.

They helped open the way for an offense that led the nation in rushing for the fourth time in the last six seasons. Nebraska averaged 374.3 yards per game on the ground in 1985, an accomplishment in which Welter takes justifiable pride.

He matured quickly in his role as a starter. Welter struggled some in the Cornhuskers' 17-13 opening-game loss to Florida State. "I was intimidated, plus the heat affected me," he said.

"I didn't really get my feet settled in that first game. But after Florida State, I felt real comfortable on the field."

He'll feel even more comfortable this season if he can carry more weight. Welter went into fall camp a year ago weighing 274 pounds, but he ended up playing at about 255.

"I dropped 15 pounds over the first couple of weeks, probably most of it in the Florida State game," Welter said.

Linemen, in particular, experience significant weight loss in hot weather. "I don't want that to happen again," said Welter. "I didn't mind playing at 255. I thought that was a real good weight. But I'd like to play heavier."

He reported for spring practice weighing just over 280, but by the annual Red-White intrasquad game, which he missed because of a nagging ankle injury, Welter weighed 275.

Carrying the extra weight required some adjustment for Welter. "I thought I'd go out there and it wouldn't be different from when I was 250, but my balance was real poor," he said.

Welter is optimistic about Nebraska's chances in 1986, even though the Cornhuskers will have to deal with Oklahoma, the defending national champion, if they're to regain the conference title which the Sooners took away from them last fall.

Oklahoma has all but five starters returning from the team that beat Nebraska 27-7 a year ago in Norman.

But "the score was kind of misleading really when you think about it," said Welter. "Obviously, Oklahoma is favored, but unchallenged? I don't believe that, not for a minute." •

even Lightner rarely lifted weights when he played football at Adams Central High School in Hastings.

'Our weightroom wasn't good enough to use," said Lightner, now an offensive tackle on the Cornhusker football team.

Lightner's habits changed when he walked on at Nebraska in 1983. He discovered Nebraska's weight training complex and Husker strength Coach Boyd Epley's computerized training program.

However, Lightner takes a somewhat independent approach to his weight train-

"Boyd keeps the whole team in shape," Lightner said. "As far as I'm concerned, I do a lot of the work on my own. I get in trouble sometimes for not doing his program, but I go for what works for me.

During the last three years, Lightner, who stands 6-foot-2 and weighs 280 pounds, has increased his bench press from 315 to 480 pounds.

Upper-body strength isn't as important

to Lightner as leg power.

"I've done a lot of reading about this," Lightner said. "I do lifts that are going to help me in football. I work the legs hard because that's almost everything for a lineman."

Lightner has improved his vertical jump by eight inches. His 391/2-inch jump ranks as the second highest in the football team's history. It's also eight and one-half inches higher than the best jump on the Nebraska basketball team.

"Without my strength," Lightner said, "I wouldn't be playing. It gets me attention quickly. You've got to get attention or you'll be stuck with the rest of them (walkon players.)"

There was a time when Lightner was with the "rest of them." He redshirted his first year after he broke his hand in practice and started at left guard on the freshman team the next year. He said he "learned the system" at Nebraska that season.

"I was on the varsity," Lightner said, "but I played in all the freshman games."

That was an advantage, Lightner said, because the rest of the players in his class were redshirted that year.

"I got to play and they had to sit there

and watch me," Lightner said.

He played sparingly on varsity last year and challenged for a starting role during practice this spring.

While Lightner's strength and playing time has increased, so has his size. He has tipped the scales at 300 pounds during the summer.

"It depends if I'm at home eating Mom's cooking or not," Lightner said.

But this summer, Lightner plans to stay in Lincoln. He said the Nebraska coaches ask the top 60 players to stay in town and lift during the summer.

Meet The Huskers Keven Lightner

By Mike Reilley

Lightner's brother, Ken, will also be in Lincoln to help push him this summer. Ken was a defensive lineman at Colorado and transferred to Nebraska Wesleyan last

Nebraska Wesleyan Coach Orson

Christensen said Keven was instrumental in bringing his brother to Lincoln.

'Keven called me late one night and informed me that his brother was coming here," Christensen said. "I'm thankful. I wish all recruiting was that easy."

When Keven first came to Nebraska, he weighed 230 pounds. He wanted to play linebacker; his position in high school.

"I thought it was a good linebacker weight," Lightner said. "When I moved to the line, I had to hit the weights hard."

Lightner learned to hit opponents hard, too. He said that he didn't understand the finer points of playing football when he was in high school.

"I would just stand there or run around after the guy with the ball," Lightner said. "I didn't know what to do."

Lightner had the same problem when he became a lineman.

"I was pretty raw," he said. "The only thing I had going for me was my athletic ability.'

He almost gave up.

"All the other guys seemed so far ahead," Lightner said. "Until I started picking up on the offense, it just wasn't any fun.

Lightner said the switch was necessary because Nebraska already had enough linebackers.

'You hear all about the walkon program and how the coaches give everybody a chance," Lightner said, "but the scholarship players are on first team from day

"They're all ahead of you before you put on the pads, so you have to have some

That luck came when he was converted into a lineman after the first day of practice, he said.

"They already had Marc Munford, Kevin Parsons and Steve Forch at linebacker," Lightner said. "I just figured there wasn't much of a chance for me there. The move turned out to be the best thing for me."

Lightner said he is looking forward to the season opener with Florida State on Sept. 13. He was whistled for a holding call on his first play during Nebraska's 17-14 loss to the Seminoles last year.

"I guess I didn't start off too well," Lightner said. "You try hard not to make a mistake, but that almost makes you commit one.

Lightner said he usually gets nervous when he knows he has to block a wellknown lineman. That could change, he

"They're just as nervous playing against you," Lightner said. "Hopefully, they'll be more nervous playing against me than I am of them this year. I've played on television and all that. I've got all that out of the way." ♦

LINCOLN — It was the best spring Jon Kelley could have ever hoped for.

The Nebraska junior I-back got just as much playing time as he could have hoped for and the fact he was playing with the No. 1 unit almost all spring was more than he could have hoped for.

"As for playing time, it was about the same as any of the I-backs," Kelley said. "But the fact I ran on the No. 1 unit almost all the time really gave me a different picture of things."

When first-team I-back Doug DuBose was sidelined with a knee injury and No. 2 I-back Keith Jones was out after arthroscopic knee surgery the first week of spring practices, Kelley took over the job exclusively.

"It adds a lot of confidence to get the ball moving when the linemen block as well as our first team does. They give you a good read on the hole and the difference is dramatic. That's why those guys are on the first team.

"You still get hit and you get tackled, but it's different when you have the bigger hole to read," said Kelley, who played for Lincoln Southeast High School.

Kelley was the leading rusher in the spring game and has a good chance to improve his status at I-back this fall because of his spring.

"He had a very good game. He ran well and helped us a lot," Nebraska Coach Tom Osborne said after the Red-White game

Kelley knows that DuBose will return to the No. 1 spot this fall, but with a good start in August, he knows he could earn some playing time this year.

Kelley played sparingly last year, but got to score his first varsity touchdown early in the year and carried the ball in almost every game.

"It was good to get back into playing again," he said. "Coach (Frank) Solich is teaching me a lot about running with my shoulders down and taking the first hit to the tackler. If you're one-on-one then you can try to shake a guy, but when you see that inevitable hit coming it's better to attack the tackler."

Kelley has the size, 6-1, 198-pounds, and the moves, a school record in the agility run, plus the speed, fourth all-time mark in Nebraska's 40-yard dash in:04.45. A year ago, he was one of three players to break the athletic index record set by Irving Fryar in 1982.

Along with Keith Jones, Kelley gives Nebraska its quickest set of backups at running back ever.

"I've made progress in all the areas of strength and speed. The combination is what we're all working for and you can feel the difference it makes when you're playing," Kelley said.

Kelley was an All-City running back, ran in the state track meet and was a standout basketball player in high school.

Meet The Huskers

Jon Kelley



By Ken Hambleton

"I guess like every kid in Nebraska I wanted to eventually play for the Huskers," Kelley said. "I ran on the little kids South Lincoln Track Club and played as many sports as I could.

"Then, in eighth grade I made my mind up that I wanted to play college basketball. When my shooting touch went away in ninth grade or so, I could feel that I was developing more as a football player and from then on football was the first choice."

Kelley said he looked at other schools that had offered him scholarships, but knowing the Nebraska program so close for so long made a big difference.

"Going to college in the town you grew up in has its strong and weak points. Having been in Lincoln all my life a lot of people advised me to go other places and see other things.

"But I knew so much about the program here. I knew what to expect and what they expected of me, plus I love Lincoln, the choice wasn't hard.

"I remember when my older brother would go to the games and beg for chinstraps from the players or anything they'd give us to remember the games from.

"I know the way the Nebraska players treated us little kids always impressed me and it's something I'll always find time to do when the kids ask me for something now."

Even when he was sitting out with knee injuries and was redshirted two years ago, Kelley said he found the importance of being in school was a high priority.

"Football can overwhelm you, but if you find that balance and find that there's time when you have to find time for other things in your life you will be okay.

"I played the first freshman game and then sat out and finished the season on the scout team my first year here. My sophomore year, I hurt my other knee and finished the year on the freshman team.

"But I stayed with my goal and last year made it on the varsity team. This spring things got better and this fall I have high expectations.

"I knew I'd have to have patience and keep working and pushing if I wanted to have a chance.

"I've got a chance now and I'm going to give it my best shot."

Kelley, a junior academically in broadcasting, has already had some radio time and plans on producing some videos this fall.

"Like anyone else who plays football as long as I have, I'd like to have a chance at pro football someday. But like everyone else on our team now, I'm focusing on next year and what I can do to help the team."

As for his future in modeling, Kelley said that may be over. Kelley was pictured in a charity calendar this spring at Nebraska. The NCAA ruled that it was a violation and he was barred from competing on the NU track team as a penalty. But there will be no further sanctions.

om Banderas was touted as the next Jamie Williams or the next Junior Miller.

Nebraska writers and He, said sportscasters in 1983, would bring back the excitement Williams and Miller had previously produced at the tight end position for the Cornhuskers. With Banderas, Nebraska would once again have a tight end who would do more than block.

Three years later, those same writers and sportscasters speak of the Oak Grove, Mo., native less frequently, even though he'll enter fall practices as the clear-cut No. 1 tight end.

Banderas, however, doesn't seem to care about how visible he is to the media.

"I always had press coming out of high school that I'd play early," he said. "Just like Mac (Clayton) and Steve (Taylor), they're the next Turner Gill. Every person that comes in that's highly-recruited they think that you're going to be it, but I knew in my mind that I was going to come in here and probably play freshman ball and be redshirted. I was hoping to get three good years of playing time...that was my goal.'

Banderas did have success on the 1983 freshman team which went 5-0. "But I kind of went unnoticed," he said. "I started, but I think I caught one ball. All the focus was on Mac, Von (Sheppard) and

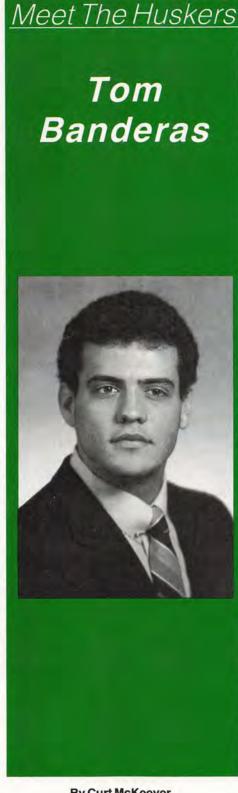
(Marc) Munford."

Banderas' play wasn't going totally unnoticed though, and in Nebraska's fourth game, he made the varsity travel squad to UCLA. Though he was honored to make the trip, that experience helped him realize what it would take for him to make a contribution to future Nebraska teams.

"I knew I wasn't ready. I weighed 215 pounds and wasn't very strong. All I know is is that I dressed up for the UCLA game when I was a freshman and I saw all of those guys playing out there and I was just inside of myself saying, 'Please, Coach Huey, don't put me in.' I was just intimidated. Right then I thought, 'It's going to take me a couple of years.' I knew I wasn't strong enough. High school is totally different. In high school, we just passed, passed, passed and I just caught, caught, caught. I caught at least five or six a game and sometimes we'd take them deep. When I came here my role changed completely because I was a blocker, basically."

After using 1984 as a redshirt season, Banderas came back for the '85 campaign at 235 pounds. Still, he began the year behind seniors Todd Frain and Brian Heimer, but when Heimer tragically died before the season-opener, Banderas was pushed into a more important role.

"I expected to maybe get in some time and work hard another whole year and come in when I was a junior and play well," Banderas said. "Then I got stuck



By Curt McKeever

into that role, so I did it to the best of my ability."

And Banderas who caught two passes in 1985, both for touchdowns used that experience to his advantage this spring.

"I got stronger over winter condition-

ing, gained a little bit more weight and tried to use that to my advantage. (Huey) said he'd just like to see me get a lot more aggressive and sustain my blocks and I just tried to go off that. When I catch the ball, I should turn up the field hard and do some damage on the D-backs instead of getting tackled one-on-one, things like that.

"He felt I did a pretty good job, but you can always do better. As soon as you get to that point where you think you're satisfied, things are going to fall in on you. As soon as you start slacking off and feel like you're it, you'll be moved down."

Physically, Banderas has moved up. He weighs 240 pounds and lifted a career-high 360 in the bench press this spring.

"I try to rely on my strength, just coming right off the ball and try to get locked up with someone who won't move my hips," he said. "And I think I have pretty good hands.'

Which, he hopes, see more balls thrown his way this season.

"I think my role may be a little bit different this year because I think we're going to attempt to throw the ball a little better and more efficiently. I have some good patterns, and we put a couple more new patterns in," Banderas said. "I think the tight end this year will be able to contribute a little more to the passing. Last year Frain and I caught under 10 passes together...I think the tight end will be a little bit more seen this year than last year."

Banderas, who was a high school standout in basketball and in the shot put and discus, started getting getting noticed by colleges his junior season. His coach, however, kept the letters away from him, "because he didn't want me to start seeing all of those in my senior year and not perform," Banderas said. "About midway through my senior year I didn't know anything about anybody. But I wasn't even worrying bout it, I was just having a good time with high school.'

When he did start thinking about college ball, Nebraska was at the top of the list.

"Right after I came up here I made my decision," he said. "I just wanted a place that I'd be the best off after five years. After five years I wanted to be at a place where I'd be the best football player and I thought it would be here.

"They told me what they thought I'd be and everything has really come true. When I first came in I got a shot at the varsity, but

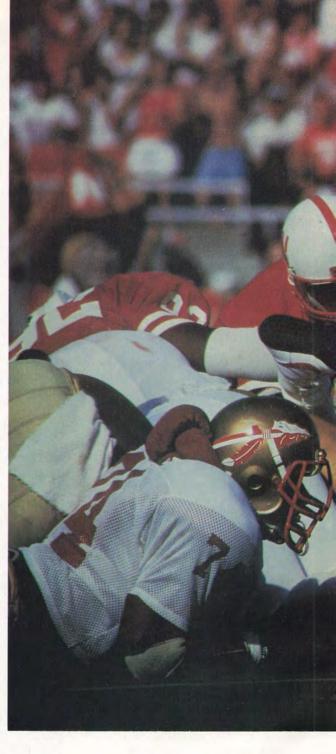
it was too much, too quick.

But now, the 1986 season couldn't come any too soon for Banderas. He's risen to the top, and may soon be back on the most-wanted list of Nebraska's media.

"It doesn't matter to me, I'm just here because I like to play the game," he said. "I want to play and I'm playing now as long as I'm doing my job, I'm just fine being in the background." •

The 1985 season opener with Florida State was hot, fierce and disappointing for the Huskers.

NON-LEAGUE OPPONENTS WILL TEST NEBRASKA EARLY



Although the Big Eight Conference football race is challenging enough, Nebraska's football teams have made it a habit of taking on the nation's best in tuneups for league play. Things will be no different in 1986.

Last fall, Florida State came to Lincoln to open the season for Nebraska. The Seminoles left with a 17-13 upset which left Husker fans wondering if 1985 might be a season of humility. It wasn't. The Big Red came back to win nine straight and challenge for another national title before losing on the road at Oklahoma.

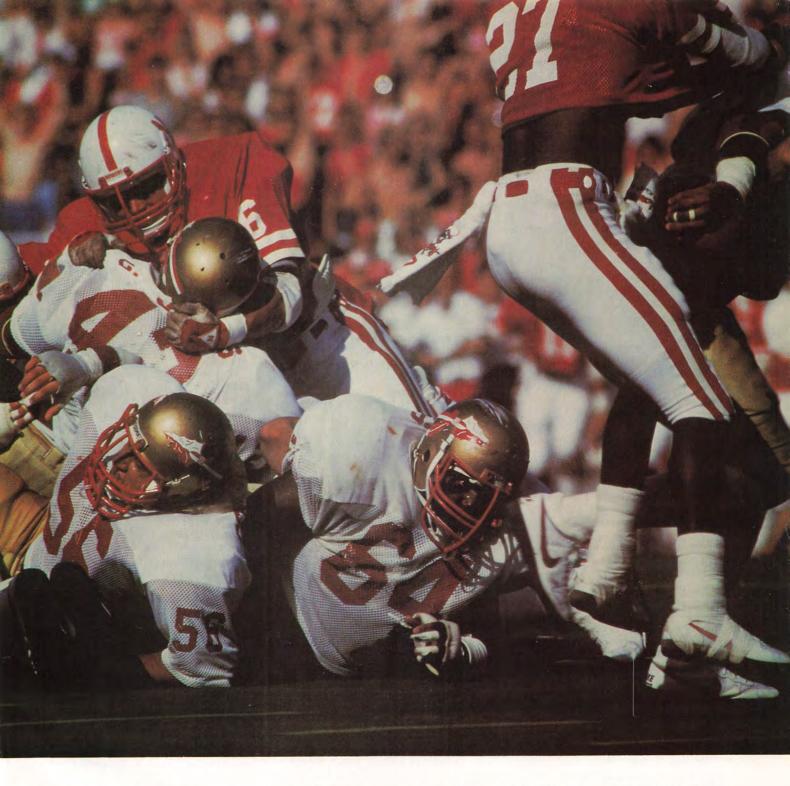
This fall, Florida State will again provide the opening test for Coach Tom Osborne and his team. By the time Nebraska faces Oklahoma State in Lincoln, Oct. 11, the

Huskers will have taken on Illinois and South Carolina on the road, and Oregon at home.

Once again, it's the kind of non-conference schedule which could break some teams. But at Nebraska, those tough early contests prepare teams for a run at the Big Eight title and a trip to the Orange Bowl.

Since winning a national championship in 1971 (the second of two straight), the Huskers have lost one of those non-conference games nine times. But those early losses (and a 6-6 tie with LSU in 1976) have served more to build character and point out areas where more work was needed than to destroy national title hopes.

In 1972, it was UCLA which ended a string of 32 games



without a loss when the Bruins squeezed out a 20-17 decision in Los Angeles. The Huskers stormed back with nine wins and a tie in their next 11 games, including a 40-6 waxing of Notre Dame in the Orange Bowl.

In 1974, Wisconsin stunned Nebraska, 21-20, but the Huskers still finished 9-3 and defeated Florida in the Sugar Bowl. There was the tie with LSU in 1976, then a seasonopening loss to Washington State in 1977. But Osborne's teams won nine games in each of those seasons. Alabama won a 20-3 decision in the 1978 opener, yet NU came back to win the Big Eight title and go to the Orange Bowl, taking a national championship away from Oklahoma along the way.

In 1979, the Huskers were unbeaten outside the conference, but Florida State pulled off the shocker, 18-14, in Lincoln in 1980. And in the 1981 opener, it was Iowa that provided the early humility, 10-7, in Iowa City. Penn State also ambushed the Huskers, 30-24, in Lincoln that fall the first time since 1958 that the Big Red has lost to more than one team outside the Big Eight in the regular season.

The most damaging non-league tuneup loss, of course, came in 1982 when Penn State took a controversial 27-24 win at State College and eventually won a national championship as both teams finished with one loss. Nebraska swept past four non-conference foes in 1983, but were stunned at Syracuse in the Carrier Dome the following season, 17-9.

Undoubtedly, Husker fans and players will sweat as much because of close calls as they will because of the weather early this season. Nebraska will be facing some of the top passing games in college football. That in itself should be a tremendous challenge to a secondary which came in for more than its share criticism in 1985.

But those early tests should once again prepare the Huskers for a return to the Big Eight thronerooom.

Here, then, is a preview of the non-conference opponents for NU this fall:

Oregon's success in 1986 will depend on the continued good health of quarterback Chris Miller and a defense built around eight players who started at least six games a year ago.

Miller, a 6-foot-2, 195-pound senior from Eugene, Ore., is on the way to becoming the Duck's all-time leading passer ahead of such notables as Norm Van Brocklin, Bob Berry and Dan Fouts. That's pretty select company.

Miller was a first-team All-Pac 10 Conference selection last season after completing 182 of 329 passes for 2,237 yards and a school-record 18 TDs. He was intercepted 13 times.

Miller, who's started 21 games in a row, was runner-up for the award as the conference "Offensive Player of the Year" in 1985.

For his career, Miller has 4,178 passing yards and 30 touchdown passes, just 10 short of the school record.

As a junior, Miller finished 20th in the nation in total offense, averaging 210.7 yards per game and accounting for 22 touchdowns, tops in the Pac-10.

"With Miller's experience, particularly the way he played the last five or six games last season, I think he's going to have a great senior year," said Oregon Coach Rich Brooks.

That will depend, to some degree, on the development of his receivers following the graduation loss of All-American Lew Barnes.

Without Barnes, "we're not going to have the same big-play capability at receiver as last year," Brooks said. "But we've got some good people out there."

One of the best is junior J.J. Birden, who possesses outstanding speed. Though he's caught only three passes in each of the last two seasons, he's expected to blossom this fall.

Brooks also has high hopes for Sam Archer, a transfer from San Joaquin, Calif., Delta Junior College, where he caught 40 passes for 516 yards and eight touchdowns.

Bobby DeBisschop, a 6-4, 224-pound senior tight end, caught 16 passes for 234 yards and five touchdowns. Thirteen of

Oregon Counting On Miller

OREGON DUCKS

HEAD COACH: Rich Brooks, 10th season (35-60-4)

1985 RECORD: 5-6

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING:

(5) Garrett Holmes, 6-4, 264, C; Brad Smith, 6-4, 257, Sr., G; Bobby De-Bisschop, 6-2, 224, Sr., TE; Chris Miller, 6-2, 195, Sr., QB; Matt MacLeod, 5-10, 165, Sr., K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (9) Matt Brock, 6-5, 251, So., E; Rollin Putzier, 6-5, 275, Jr., T; Dave Maley, 6-4, 275, Sr., T; Rob Marshall, 6-6, 232, Jr., E; Dan Devaney, 6-3, 221, Sr., LB; Darrin Golka, 6-3, 219, Sr., LB; Anthony Newman, 6-1, 201, Jr., SS; Ed Hulbert, 5-10, 165, Sr., FS; Mike Preacher, 6-2, 194, Sr., P.

his 16 receptions resulted in touchdowns or first downs.

Finding a replacement for tailback Tony Cherry is a task comparable to that of replacing Barnes.

The diminutive Cherry rushed for 1,006 yards a year ago, the second highest single-season total in Oregon history.

Those in the competition for playing time at tailback include James Harper, a fourth-year junior who has rushed for only 99 yards on 27 carries and scored one touchdown during his career; second-year freshman Latin Berry; fifth-year senior Eugene King and junior Bob Bassett.

"I think we'll be okay in the backfield, although I'm not sure we'll have a guy who was as productive as Cherry was," said Brooks.

Brothers Kevin and Randy Willhite each started two games at fullback last season. Kevin Willhite, a 6-0, 211-pound redshirted senior from Rancho Cordova, Calif., finished as the team's second-leading rusher for the season, gaining 195 yards.

Reggie Nettles, a transfer from Cerritos, Calif., Junior College could also strengthen the Ducks at fullback. He stands 6-1, weighs 225 pounds, runs the 40-yard dash in :04.5 and bench presses over 400 pounds. He was primarily a blocker in junior college.

"Obviously, we want more production from the fullback position than we got a year ago in terms of yardage and receptions," said Brooks, who's looking for some balance in his team's attack.

The interior of Oregon's offensive line includes only two returning starters: guard Brad Smith, a 6-4, 257-pound senior from Klamath Falls, Ore., and center Garrett Holmes, a 6-3, 264-pound senior from North Bend, Ore.

Because of Smith and Holmes as well as some experienced non-starters, "we've got a little more flexibility inside than we do at the tackle spot," according to Brooks.

Defensively, Oregon is looking to improve dramatically from a season in which it ranked last in the Pac-10 statistically. "There's no question we gave up a lot of big plays last year," Brooks said, pointing out the obvious. "But you look at our last four games, defensively, and I think we played pretty well.

"What I had hoped would happen very early in the season didn't happen until the end. Those young players started to play a little more like veterans, and I think we're going to have a good carryover from

Starters return at the four defensive line positions and two of the three linebacker spots.

Dave Maley, a 6-4, 275-pound senior from Prineville, Ore., is a three-year starter at tackle, but he's been bothered the last two seasons by a knee injury which appears to be healthy. He made 56 tackles last season.

Rollin Putzier, a 6-5, 275-pound junior from Post Falls, Idaho, figures to be the other starting tackle. He finished fourth on the team in total tackles a year ago with 86.

Oregon's defensive ends probably will be Rob Marshall, a 6-6, 232-pound junior, and Matt Brock, a 6-5, 251-pound sophomore.

Brock made 78 tackles, including eight for losses totaling 32 yards, as a freshman. He was credited with 10 of those tackles in the Nebraska game. He started the final 10 games of the season, despite battling back problems.

Oregon's experienced linebackers include Darrin Golka, who started five of the last six games in 1985, and seniors Dan Devaney and John Wolf.

Both Devaney and Wolf were slowed by injuries last fall.

Brooks expects some young players to challenge those three. "It's a wide-open position," he said.

Senior Ed Hulbert and junior Anthony Newman should provide the leadership in

Oregon's defensive secondary

Newman, a 6-1, 201-pound free safety, had an outstanding sophomore year, making 91 tackles, intercepting four passes, recovering three fumbles and deflecting eight passes. He made 10 tackles against Nebraska.

Hulbert made 78 tackles, 56 of which were unassisted, intercepted three passes, deflected seven passes and forced one fum-

With athletes like Newman and Hulbert, "we can at least start with a very talented group" in the secondary, according to Brooks. "But depth, as it was a year ago, will be a concern.

Oregon's kicking game should be in good shape with the return of punter Mike Preacher and place-kicker Matt Mac-

Leod.

If something good came of last season, when South Carolina finished a disappointing 5-6, it was that a lot of young players gained experience.

"During the last half of the 1985 football season, 24 of our top 48 players were either freshmen or sophomores, so the experience of having seen game action will be a strength," said Gamecock Coach Joe Morrison.

The problems in 1985 were those commonly associated with youth and inexperience. "We were not consistent on either side of the football," Morrison said. "I feel we will come back strong and put forth the efforts necessary to once again be successful. Our players and coaches have tasted success, and they know the price that they must pay to get there again.

Offensively, the Gamecocks did some

experimenting during the spring.

'We've always been associated with the Veer offense, and it's been good for us,' said Morrison. "But any formation you use must be geared to the people you have running it.

One of two redshirted freshmen could be running South Carolina's offense this season: Todd Ellis or Pat Turner. Both were highly recruited out of high school, Ellis in Greensboro, N.C., and Turner in Canton, Ga.

The 6-3, 200-pound Ellis was a prep All-American, passing for 6,157 yards and 39 touchdowns during his career. He threw for 3,110 yards and 19 touchdowns as a senior.

Turner, a 6-2, 195-pounder with :04.6 speed in the 40-yard dash, passed for 3,170 yards and 39 touchdowns and rushed for 750 yards and 11 touchdowns during his high school career.

Whoever plays quarterback for the Gamecocks will have a couple of proven receivers to whom he can throw

Gamecocks Gained Experience In '85

S.C. GAMECOCKS

HEAD COACH: Joe Morrison, 4th season (20-14-0 at South Carolina, 82-58-5 overall).

1985 RECORD: 5-6

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING:

(7) Ryan Bethea, 6-4, 200, So., SE; Sterling Sharpe, 6-1, 193, Jr., FL; Danny Smith, 6-3, 210, Jr., TE; Buddy Quarles, 6-4, 275, Jr., T; Ray Carpenter, 6-3, 260, Sr., G; David Poinsett, 6-5, 265, Jr., G.; Scott Hagler, 5-8, 160, Sr., K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (9) Fitzgerald Davis, 6-4, 265, Sr., T; Tom Chaikin, 6-2, 232, Jr., T; Willie McIntee, 6-2, 231, Sr., E; Gleen Peacock, 6-0, 235, Jr., LB; Kenneth Robinson, 6-2, 230, Sr., LB; Carl Hill, 6-2, 200, Jr., LB; Chris Major, 5-9, 180, Sr., CB; Greg Philpot, 5-10, 181, Jr., FS; Robert Robinson, 5-11, 180, So., CB

touchdowns.

Ryan Bethea, a 6-4, 200-pound split end, also provides starting experience at receiver. Bethea caught four passes for 51 yards as a freshman.

Senior running backs Raynard Brown and Anthony Smith having starting experience. Brown, 5-9, 185, rushed for 195 vards and two touchdowns last season. Smith, 5-9, 195, gained 386 yards and ran for one touchdown. They caught 13 passes between them for 167 yards and two touchdowns.

Brown was the team's leading kickoff returner. He ran back 17 for 366 yards, an average of 21.5 yards per return.

South Carolina's strength appears to be defense going into 1986. The Gamecocks have eight returning starters there. "We'll once again be using the multiple look on defense," Morrison said. "We like the 'Fire Ant' concept on defense, but we're going to have to work on strengthening up the middle and on the line. We have to stop the other team at the line of scrimmage."

The Gamecocks yielded an average of 382.3 yards of total offense per game in 1985 - 208 of those yards came on the

ground.

One of South Carolina's leaders upfront could be end Derrick Little, a 6-4, 230-pound sophomore from Athens, Ga., who was a back-up last fall. Little finished with 48 tackles, including four for losses totaling 34 yards, and intercepted two passes. He returned the first for a touchdown.

Senior Kenneth Robinson, a 6-2, 225pound strongside linebacker, led South Carolina in tackles a year ago, finishing with 131. He ranks eighth on the school's career tackle list. Robinson had 13 tackles for loss, broke up one pass and recovered a fumble.

Carl Hill, a 6-2, 191-pound junior linebacker, made 69 tackles a year ago after a freshman season in which he was credited with 132 tackles. Hill was bothered by a recurring ankle injury and a broken finger last fall.

He makes up for his lack of size with

:04.6 speed in the 40-yard dash.

South Carolina appears to be strong in the defensive secondary, with free safety Greg Philpot, strong safety Brad Edwards and cornerback Chris Major the key players.

Philpot, a 5-10, 185-pound junior from Largo, Fla., made 115 tackles and intercepted six passes as a sophomore to earn

All-South Independent honors.

'Greg had a fine year for us, and we expect him to get better next season and contend for All-American honors," said Mor-

Edwards, a 6-3, 201-pound junior from Fayetteville, N.C., shared playing time a year ago, recording 47 tackles and breaking up four passes.

Major made 71 tackles, had three interceptions and broke up 17 passes last season. "Chris Major is the type of young man you want in your program," Morrison said of the 5-9, 180-pound senior from Valdosta, Ga.

Placekicker Scott Hagler led the team in scoring a year ago, converting 35 extrapoint kicks without a miss and kicking eight field goals in 15 attempts. His presence ensures South Carolina will be strong in that area.

Morrison is optimistic going, into 1986, which sees Nebraska traveling to Columbia, S.C., for an Oct. 4 game with the Gamecocks on the natural grass surface at 72,400-seat Williams-Brice Stadium.

Illinois Coach Mike White doesn't have any problems that a little big-play capabil-

ity on offense wouldn't solve.

Take the Illini passing attack, for example. "If we don't get some intermediate passes and some long passes, we won't be the kind of team we want to be." White said after his team's annual Orange-Blue spring intrasquad game.

"It takes a lot of five-yard plays to move

the length of the field."

Illinois was able to move the ball the length of the field that way last season, what with quarterback Jack Trudeau in charge of things. A Trudeau-to-David Williams passing attack could be as methodical as it was explosive.

Trudeau set three NCAA passing records during his career, and Williams finished as the No. 2 receiver in NCAA Division I history with 245 catches.

Illinois averaged 25 points a game in 1985 to rank 29th in the country. Ironically, the Illini scored their average against Nebraska and lost by 27, 52–25.

But Trudeau and Williams are gone, and White will have to rely on a new passing combination this fall.

Based on the spring, Jim Bennett appears to be the successor to Trudeau. The 6-3, 185-pound sophomore from Aurora, Ill., completed 21 of 31 passes for 236 yards and one touchdown during the Illini spring game.

Senior Shane Lamb also could figure in White's plans at quarterback. But "there's no doubt I'd rather have one bonafide starter," White said. "It would be better to have a guy who you were going to give 80 percent of the work to in the fall."

The leading receiver in the Illini spring game was Steven Williams, a 6-0, 165-pound sophomore from Los Angeles and the brother of David Williams, a two-time All-American. Steven Williams caught seven passes for 141 yards, including a 41-yarder to help set up a second-quarter touchdown.

That's big-play capability.

Stephen Pierce, a 5-10, 182-pound senior from San Diego also returns at wide receiver. Pierce caught 49 passes for 614 yards and two TDs last season.

Among the other receivers who return are wideouts Darrin Brown and Darryl Usher and tight end Anthony Williams, all of whom have lettered twice.

Usher, a 5-10, 170-pound junior from San Mateo, Calif., led the Big 10 in punt returns last season.

The Illini running backs include Keith Jones, a 6-2, 190-pound sophomore from Rock Hill, Mo., considered by White to be potentially the best fullback Illinois has had since Jim Grabowski; Ray Wilson, a three-year letterman, and Lynn McClellan, a transfer from San Bernadino, Calif., Valley Junior College. Wilson finished with 690 all-purpose yards last season.

Illinois Replacing Top Guns On Offense

FIGHTING ILLINI

HEAD COACH: Mike White, seventh season (40-27-2 at Illinois, 75-56-3 overall)

1985 RECORD: 6-5-1, including loss in Peach Bowl.

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (4) Mark Dennis, 6-5, 270, Sr., T; Mike Scully, 6-5, 260, Jr., C; Scott Kehoe, 6-5, 250, Sr., G; Stephen Pierce, 5-10, 182, Sr., WR.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (7) Jim Blondell, 6-3, 260, Jr., T; Ron Bohm, 6-3, 245, Sr., T; Scott Davis, 6-7, 255, Jr., E; Sam Ellsworth, 6-2, 225, Jr., LB; Lance Harkey, 5-10, 170, Sr., CB; Keith Taylor, 6-0, 185, Jr., CB; Chad Little, 6-0, 196, Jr., P.

Jones was the top rusher in the spring game, gaining 71 yards on 19 carries for the winning Orange team.

Five lettermen return in the Illini offensive line, including starters Mark Dennis, 6-5, 275; Mike Scully, 6-5, 260; and Scott Kehoe, 6-5, 250. Dennis and Scully both received All-Big 10 honorable mention

while Kehoe graded out as the team's best offensive lineman in 1985.

Defensively, Illinois has at least four lettermen returning in the line, at linebacker and in the secondary.

"We need to become more physical," White said, noting: "I think you're going to see some multiple defenses, a combination of defenses (in 1986)."

The defensive line appears to be especially strong, with tackle Jim Blondell and end Scott Davis back.

Blondell, a 6-3, 260-pound junior, was credited with 60 tackles to rank third on the team.

Davis, a 6-7, 255-pound junior, led the team in tackles for loss and quarterback sacks to earn honorable mention all-conference. He had eight tackles for losses totaling 51 yards to tie for sixth in the Big 10.

The converted tight end from Plainfield, Ill., drew considerable praise from White following his sophomore season. "The guy who began to become an All-America player was Scott," said White.

"His No. 90 was all over. When he was playing tight end for us, you could see his natural talent was obvious at defensive end. He was on key sacks and key plays for us all year."

Davis made 33 unassisted tackles.

Senior tackle Ron Bohm missed the middle of his junior season because of a knee injury, but he appears ready to take charge of the Illini interior.

Linebacker Sam Ellsworth, the team's leading tackler two years ago, is back after an injury redshirt as is Jeff Martin, another linebacker.

Eight lettermen return in the secondary, including cornerbacks Lance Harkey and Keith Taylor and safeties African Grant and Ed White.

Harvey broke up nine passes, three of which saved touchdowns, last season.

Chad Little is back to handle the punting duties. The junior from Champaign, Ill., averaged 40.4 yards a punt on 49 kicks last season to rank sixth in the conference.

Illinois' place-kicking likely will be handled by one of two walkons — Brian Junghans or Chris Siambekos.

Illinois has posted five consecutive winning seasons under White, who's beginning his seventh season in Champaign-Urbana. During that time, the Illini have gone to three post-season bowl games, including last year's 31-29 loss to Army in the Peach Bowl.

Illini fans haven't forgotten last year's embarrassing 52-25 loss in Lincoln, when the Cornhuskers intercepted four passes and rolled up 566 yards of offense.

Nebraska travels to Champaign to play Illinois on Sept. 20. The Cornhuskers will have an extra week to prepare for the Illini, who open with Louisville at home then play Southern Cal in Los Angeles before hosting Nebraska.

Florida State appears ready to "Chip" at a road schedule that includes not only Nebraska but also Michigan and Miami. That's "Chip" as in Chip Ferguson, the Seminoles' sophomore quarterback.

Ferguson took over the job in the third game last season after Danny McManus was sidelined by a head injury. McManus quarterbacked the Seminoles to their 17-13 victory over Nebraska in the Cornhuskers' season opener.

The 6-2, 195-pound Ferguson responded to the challenge by leading Florida State to the Gator Bowl, where he wrapped up his freshman season by earning the MVP award during a 34-23 victory

over Oklahoma State.

He played the final three quarters of that

game with a cracked collarbone.

For the season, Ferguson completed 70 of 130 passes for 990 yards and 11 touchdowns. He was intercepted eight times, four of them in one game.

Because of Ferguson's arm, "I think you'll see a greater use of the pro set," said Florida State Coach Bobby Bowden. "With our returning talent at quarterback and running back, I believe it will give us

more options."

The most talented of the Seminole running backs is probably Sammie Smith, a redshirt freshman who was sidelined for the season with an injury in the third game of 1985. Smith, a prep All-American from Apopka, Fla., carried 12 times for 74 yards against Nebraska.

Smith stands 6-1 and weighs 220.

The Seminoles also have tailbacks Victor Floyd, who averaged nearly seven yards a carry on 90 carries last season and Keith Ross and fullback Chuck Wells returning.

Florida State's receiving corps is bolstered by the return of Darrin Holloman, Phillip Bryant and Herb Gainer.

Gainer, a 6-2, 187-pound junior from Sarasota, Fla., started twice last season, including the Nebraska game, and came off the bench to catch seven passes for 148 yards and two touchdowns in the Gator Bowl. He finished the regular season with five receptions for 87 yards, a 17.4-yard average.

Holloman, a 5-7, 170-pound junior from Tallahassee, Fla., ranked second on the team in receiving a year ago with 20 catches for 323 yards and three TDs. He caught a 15-yard touchdown pass from McManus in the Nebraska game.

Bryant, a 5-10, 180-pound sophomore from Bainbridge, Ga., was Holloman's back-up a year ago but finished third on

the team in receiving with 17 catches for 360 yards.

Junior tight end Pat Carter caught 14 passes for 154 yards and three touchdowns as a sophomore starter.

Florida State has lost All-American guard Jamie Dukes and tackle John Ionata,

Seminoles Loaded Again On Offense

FSUSEMINOLES

HEAD COACH: Bobby Bowden, 21st season (156-64-2).

1985 RECORD: 9-3-0, including victory in the Gator Bowl

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (8) Pat Carter, 6-4, 255, Jr., TE; Chip Ferguson, 6-1, 207, So., QB; Victor Floyd, 5-11, 190, So., TB; Jim Hendley, 6-3, 257, Sr., C; Darrin Holloman, 5-7, 168, Jr., WR; Pablo Lopez, 6-4, 258, Jr., T; Pat Tomberlin, 6-3, 313, So., G.; Derek Schmidt, 5-11, 180, Jr., K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (9) Fred Jones, 6-3, 242, Sr., LB; Martin Mayhew, 5-8, 172, Jr., CB; Paul McGowan, 6-1, 218, Jr., LB; Greg Newell, 5-11, 193, Jr., SS; Gerald Nichols, 6-2, 265, Sr., T; Eric Williams, 5-9, 180, Jr., CB; Deion Sanders, 5-11, 169, So., CB; Stan Shiver, 6-2, 192, So., S; Louis Berry, 6-0, 185, Sr.,

a three-year starter, from its offensive line, and "it just won't be the same without those two," Bowden said.

The Seminoles have some big shoes to fill and some big players to do so. Guard Pat Tomberlin, who started from the fourth game on last fall, is the biggest. He stands 6-3 and weighs 313 pounds.

Other players with starting experience in the offensive line include Pablo Lopez, 6-4, 268: Mark Salva, 6-2, 250; David Schrenker, 6-3, 250; and Jim Hendley, 6-3, 257

Defensively, the Seminoles need to find a way to prevent big plays. "Our defense has shown vast improvement, but it still seems the big plays come back to haunt us," Bowden said. "All three losses last year can be attributed to Florida State giving up the big play.

"If we can stop it from happening, we should be a better team in 1986.

Florida State has starters returning at

both linebacker spots and all the secondary positions. The lone returnee up-front is tackle Gerald Nichols, a 6-2, 265-pound senior from St. Louis. He was credited with 53 tackles and five quarterback sacks

Five huge redshirts are in line to compete for starting jobs alongside Nichols: Eric Hayes (6-3, 289), Chris Miller (6-1, 290), John Brown (6-3, 280), Tony Yeomans (6-2, 280), and Eric Krohn (6-2,

Linebackers with starting experience are Paul McGowan and Fred Jones and part-

time starter Terry Warren.

McGowan, a 6-1, 220-pound junior from Winter Park, Fla., led the team in tackles a year ago, finishing with 129. He had 12 tackles for loss, the third highest total in school history, caused two fumbles and intercepted three passes, including one with 3:59 remaining in the game to preserve the Seminoles' victory over Nebraska.

Jones, a 6-3, 245-pound senior from Miami, made 98 tackles and nine tackles for loss last fall.

Florida State's secondary includes five players with starting experience. The most prominent is Deion Sanders, a 5-11, 169pound sophomore cornerback who was one of three true freshmen to break into the starting lineup a year ago.

Sanders had six tackles and an interception and broke up five passes in the Gator

Bowl.

Strong safety Stan Shiver, who made 10 tackles and recovered a fumble against Nebraska, is a sophomore.

Cornerbacks Eric Williams and Martin Mayhew are both juniors.

"These are the guys who will need to improve for us to be a sound defensive football team. As a group they played well last year, but we still had too many instances of receivers getting behind our coverage," Bowden said.

Florida State always seems to have a solid kicking game. This season, those duties will belong to punter Louis Berry and place-kicker Derek Schmidt, Berry averaged 43.1 yards per punt a year ago; Schmidt converted 86 consecutive extrapoint kicks and was successful on 18 of 25 field goals.

Sanders and Ross were Florida State's top kick returners in 1985.

There is optimism in Tallahassee, where fans have seen their team make four consecutive post-season bowl appearances. Last year's 9-3 record won't be easy to duplicate.

But "we were able to give a lot of players some experience last year, and hopefully, we'll be able to find some people who are ready to step in right where we lost a few guys," said Bowden, who has the 11th best record among active NCAA Division I coaches.

ever mind that Oklahoma is the defending national champion or that the Sooners are laden with returning starters. Nebraska is geared up to regain the Big Eight Conference title.

No way, you say?

Well, the Cornhuskers appear ready to turn some heads when the 1986 football

season gets underway.

Their performance in the annual Red-White spring game, won by a team which included the top-unit players 70-14, provided evidence of an explosive offense that some already are comparing to the 1983 "Scoring Explosion" and a Black Shirt defense that could be as stingy as the one in 1984.

Coach Tom Osborne's 14th team has the potential to rank among his best.

The Cornhuskers will be more balanced and experienced in 1986 than they were in 1985, when they finished 9-3 and earned a bid to a 17th consecutive post-season bowl

They've got outstanding individual players willing to operate within the team

concept stressed by Osborne.

Senior I-back Doug DuBose, who's looking to become the first Nebraska runner to gain 1,000 yards in three consecutive seasons, is a bonafide Heisman Trophy candidate.

Senior middle guard Danny Noonan, one of the most effective pass rushers in school history, is a candidate for both the Outland Trophy and Lombardi Award.

Senior Brian Davis ranks among the best cornerbackers Nebraska's ever had according to the coaches. He's a potential All-American.

Senior linebacker Marc Munford, one of the best-ever at his position, has a good chance to return to action after undergoing reconstructive knee surgery late last season. His presence would make a big difference.

The Cornhuskers have starters returning at five positions on offense and six positions on defense. In 1985, they had only five returning starters total, and that was stretching the definition some.

Do you still doubt Nebraska's ability to challenge Oklahoma?

This may be Osborne's fastest team, overall, and many of the fastest players are still in back-up roles: I-back Keith Jones and wingback Dana Brinson are the two fastest football players in Nebraska his-

Jones has been electronically timed in :04.33 in the 40-yard dash. Brinson's best 40 is :04:39.

Tyreese Knox, the second-string fullback, has sprinter's speed, having run the 40-yard dash in under :04.5. So has Jon Kelley, the No. 3 I-back.

Sophomore Steve Taylor, who's constantly being compared to Turner Gill, is the fastest quarterback in school history.

HUSKERS WON'T FAVORED, BUT THEY'LL BIG EIGHT

- 1. NEBRASKA
- 2. **OKLAHOMA**
- 3. OKLAHOMA STATE
- 4. MISSOURI
- 5. COLORADO
- 6. IOWA STATE
- 7. KANSAS
- KANSAS STATE

Taylor's ability to scramble is such that Nebraska would be exciting in 1986 even without the talented supporting cast.

The Cornhuskers have an abundance of game-breakers at the skill positions.

Nebraska was not without significant losses, of course. Defensive tackle Jim Skow and center Bill Lewis, a pair of All-Americans, will be missed, as will Tom Rathman, who established an NU fullback rushing record.

The Cornhuskers will have to compensate for the departure of steady performers like tight end Todd Frain, wingback Roger Lindstrom and linebacker Mike Knox, who battled back from reconstructive knee surgery to play a key role in 1985.

Offensive linemen Tim Roth and Brian Blankenship must be replaced, along with Brad Smith, Gregg Reeves and Scott Tucker, three of the top four defensive ends last season, cornerback Dennis Watkins and punter Dan Wingard.

But quality players at each of those positions have been waiting for an opportunity

to contribute.

DuBose and tackle Tom Welter head the list of returning offensive starters.

Welter, a senior from Yankton, S.D., and junior guard John McCormick provide a solid base on which to rebuild the line. Senior Stan Parker has increased his weight to 270 and now looks like a guard, according to Osborne.

Keven Lightner and Rob Maggard are interchangeable at the tackle opposite Welter, and senior Mark Cooper is the first of three centers whose job it is to fill the shoes

of Lewis.

Nebraska's offensive line has been instrumental in the Cornhuskers' leading the nation in rushing offense four of the last six seasons, and this year's unit is in the same

It'll be a key to 1986.

Everything begins with the run.

The passing game will be dramatically improved. Nebraska ranked 99th nationally in passing offense in 1985, an embarrassment that Osborne is determined to correct.

The Cornhuskers have reliable pass receivers in Sheppard and Brinson at wingback, Robb Schnitzler, Jason Gamble and Rod Smith at split end, Tom Banderas and Todd Millikan at tight end.

They're three-deep at quarterback, with Taylor, Clete Blakeman and McCathorn Clayton, who started all but two games a year ago.

They've got consistent Ken Kaelin backed up by Knox at fullback.

Defensively, tackle Chris Spachman, a two-year starter, should receive the media attention he's earned. He along with Lee Jones and Neil Smith give Nebraska quality up-front.

Tony Holloway is the only one of 1985's top four ends to return, but he ranks among the fastest and strongest at that position in school history.

Senior Brad Tyrer and sophomore Broderick Thomas finished the spring fied

for the top spot at the other end.

A healthy Munford along with Kevin Parsons, Steve Forch and LeRoy Etienne give Nebraska solid linebacking, and the secondary returns nearly in tact, with Davis, monster Brian Washington and safeties Bryan Siebler and Chris Carr all back.

Sophomore Charles Fryar, who finished the spring as the No. 1 right cornerback, opposite Davis, is one of several talented young defensive backs.

And, of course, the Cornhuskers have place-kicker Dale Klein back.

Still not convinced?

Even the Big Eight schedule is set up in Nebraska's favor. Not only Oklahoma but Oklahoma State and Missouri must visit Lincoln this fall.

The Cornhuskers' non-conference slate includes Florida State, Illinois, South Carolina and Oregon, teams which will provide Nebraska with nationally ranked competition and media attention coast-to-coast. That's important for teams making a run at the national title.

Nebraska could be such a team.

Yes, the Huskers Illustrated crystal ball sees the Cornhuskers taking the conference crown away from Oklahoma in 1986. The Sooners won't give it up easily, of course, but it's going to happen. As for the remainder of the Big Eight, the crystal ball indicates the race will look like this:

 NEBRASKA: The Cornhuskers will discover a lot about themselves when they open the season on Sept. 6 against Florida State in the first night game ever played at Memorial Stadium.

By the time they play Oklahoma on Nov. 22, the element of surprise will be gone. But Nebraska won't need to surprise anyone in 1986, not with Taylor running the option and handing the ball to DuBose.

The Cornhuskers will have the strength to go head-to-head with anyone.

Perhaps the biggest question facing Nebraska is whether Munford can come back from the knee surgery. If he's reasonably healthy and able to play, an already strong Black Shirt defense will be significantly stronger.

2. OKLAHOMA: Based on what the Sooners did in 1985, they deserve to be the Big Eight's pre-season favorites. But the Huskers Illustrated crystal ball sees things the way they are not the way they should be.

Still, consider what Oklahoma has: 20 returning starters; All-American linebacker Brian Bosworth, who's being touted as a Heisman Trophy candidate, and quarterback Jamelle Holieway, the Big Eight Offensive Newcomer of the Year. They've also got four all-conference players in addition to Bosworth and Holieway returning: tight end Keith

Jackson, offensive linemen Anthony Phillips and Mark Hutson and defensive end Darrell Reed.

Surprisingly enough, the Sooners are still relatively young. Only two seniors, center Travis Simpson and split end Derrick Shepard, are likely to start on offense.

Every Oklahoma player who carried the ball in the wishbone last season is back, led by Holieway, the team's leading rusher, and fullback Lydell Carr, who was second.

The Sooners' most significant losses from last year were middle guard Tony Casillas, the Lombardi Trophy winner, and defensive end Kevin Murphy, like Casillas an All-American.

Sophomore Curtice Williams replaces Casillas, and junior Troy Johnson will step in for Murphy.

Where are Oklahoma's weaknesses?

There appear to be none,

3. OKLAHOMA STATE: The Cowboys have a pair of All-Americans, tailback Thurman Thomas and safety Mark Moore.

In two seasons, Thomas has rushed for nearly 2,500 yards, scored 24 TDs and even passed for four touchdowns. He and quarterback Ronnie Williams, who passed for 1,506 yards and six touchdowns a year ago, provide Oklahoma State with a balanced offense.

However, with only one returning starter in guard Doug Meacham, the offensive line must be rebuilt.

The Cowboys also have to replace tackles Leslie O'Neal and John Washington on defense and that will be a significant task.

The secondary returns in tact, with Moore, strong safety Mike Hudson and cornerbacks Mel Gilliam and Demise Williams. Hudson was first-team all-conference like Moore, who intercepted seven

Oklahoma State should be good enough to earn another bowl trip, but the Cowboys won't be good enough to beat Nebraska and Oklahoma.

4. MISSOURI: The Tigers can't be any worse than they were in 1985, Coach Woody Widenhofer's first season.

Freshman running back Tony VanZant could have an immediate impact on Missouri's fortunes. Last year's tailback, Darrell Wallace is no slouch, rushing for 1,120 yards, the second highest total in school history.

Either can run behind a line anchored by tackle John Clay, a two-time All-Big Eight selection.

Defensively, the Tigers are led by end Dick Chapura and strong safety Erik McMillan, one of the fastest players in the conference. McMillan has been timed at :04.28 in the 40-yard dash.

Whether or not Missouri can contend for a first-division finish in the Big Eight will depend on the Tigers' ability to break the losing habits established in 1985.

That will be a formidable job.

5. COLORADO: The Buffaloes won't

be sneaking up on anyone in 1986 the way they did in 1985.

Coach Bill McCartney has 15 returning starters, eight of them on defense, and one of the best punters in the nation, consensus All-American Barry Helton.

Junior quarterback Mark Hatcher has a year's experience running the wishbone, which enabled Colorado to go from last in the nation in rushing offense in 1985 to ninth in 1986, and he'll operate behind a line built around center Eric Coyle, the team's Most Valuable Offensive Player a year ago.

Senior linebacker Barry Remington and junior strong safety Mickey Pruitt are the key figures on defense. And how good the Buffaloes are in 1986 will depend to a large degree on how good that defense is.

6. IOWA STATE: The Cyclones need to improve offensively. They ranked 102nd in the nation in total offense a year ago, with a running attack that produced less than 100 yards per game.

Quarterback Alex Espinoza can throw the ball, but without a ground game to relieve some of the pressure, his effectiveness is diminished.

Iowa State's defense includes eight returning starters, led by linebackers Dennis Gibson and Jeff Braswell and cornerback Terrence Anthony.

The Cyclones could be better in 1986 and still have to battle to finish ahead of Kansas and Kansas State in the Big Eight

7. KANSAS: The Jayhawks lost a pair of key players in record-setting quarterback Mike Norseth and All-American linebacker Willie Pless.

They also lost Coach Mike Gottfried to Pittsburgh. Gottfried, who was hired primarily for installing a sophisticated, pro-style passing attack, was replaced by Bob Valesente, his assistant head coach.

Despite Gottfried's departure, the Jayhawks' offense will still be based on the forward pass, with Mike Orth, a redshirted junior, doing the throwing.

The KU defense will be built around linebackers Rick Bredesen and John Randolph and safety Wayne Ziegler. It could be busy this fall.

8. KANSAS STATE: The Wildcats also have a new coach in Stan Parrish, who has promised instant success in Manhattan by throwing the ball.

Parrish will have a tough time making good on his promise considering Kansas State ranked last in the nation in both total offense and scoring offense last season. The Wildcats scored only 12 touchdowns in 11 games.

Their most notable player is defensive end Kevin Humphrey, who was picked as the AP Big Eight Defensive Newcomer of the Year after transferring from Dodge City, Kan., Junior College.

Despite the optimism of Parrish, Kansas State appears destined for the conference cellar.

BIG EIGHT STATISTICS

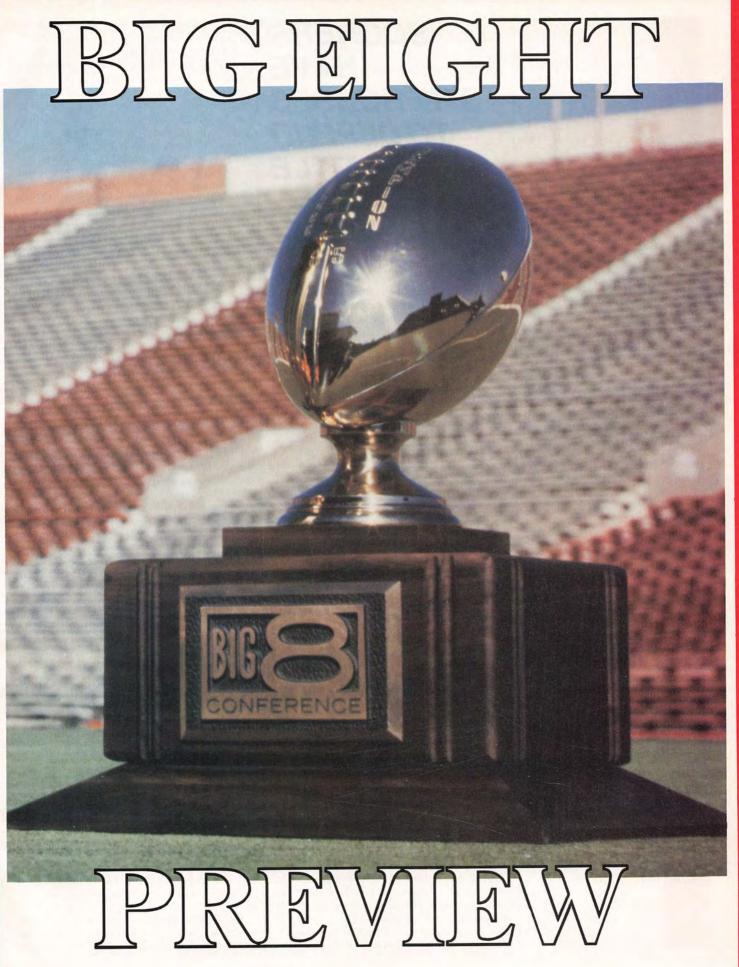
	RUSH	NG									A Team T ense Chan		
Name/School	CL	G	CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDS	PG	Year	School		YPG	,
Thurman Thomas, Oklahoma State	so	11	302	1553	5.1	15		1.2	1937	Colora		375.4	
Doug Dubose, Nebraska	JR	10	203	1161	5.7	8		6.1	1955	Oklah		410.7	
Darrell Wallace, Missouri	SO	11	226	1120	5.0	5		1.8	1956	Oklah		481.7	
Jamelle Holieway, Oklahoma	FR	9	161	861	5.3	9		5.7	1971	Oklah		566.5	
Tom Rathman, Nebraska	SR	11	118	881	7.5	8		0.1	1974	Oklah		507.7	
Paul Miles, Nebraska	SR	10	102	689	6.8	5		8.9	1978	Nebra		501.4	
Lydell Carr, Oklahoma	SO	11	169	735	4.3	4		6.8	1982	Nebra		518.6	
Mark Hatcher, Colorado	SO	10	125	539	4.3	10		3.9					
Anthony Weatherspoon, Colorado	SO	11	140	569	4.1	2		1.7		N	CAA Tear	n	
Ron Brown, Colorado	SR	11	90	524	5.8	2		7.6		Rusi	hing Char	nns	
Leon Perry, Oklahoma	FR	11	92	518	5.6	5	4	7.1				PARTY.	
Andrew Jackson, Iowa State	JR	10	113	415	3.7	2	4	1.5	Year	School	ol	YPG	i
John Kendrick, Kansas State	SR	9	80	354	4.4	0	3	9.3	1937	Colora	ado	310.0)
Ray Wilson, Kansas State	SO	11	112	367	3.3	0	3	3.4	1941	Misso	uri	307.7	1
Eric Mitchel, Oklahoma	FR	9	43	282	6.6	2		1.3	1953	Oklah	oma	306.9)
Todd Moody, Kansas State	JR	11	94	343	3.6	0		1.2	1955	Oklah	oma	306.9	
Kirk Thomas, Iowa State	SR	11	103	326	3.2	0		9.6	1956	Oklah		391.0	
Eric McCarty, Colorado Arnold Fields, Kansas	SO	11	71	313	4.4	0		8.5	1963	Nebra		262.6	
Patrick Collins, Oklahoma	SR	12	79	336	4.3	5		8.0	1965	Nebra		290.0	
Von Sheppard, Nebraska	SO	11	53	306	5.8	5		7.8	1971	Oklah		472.4	
McCathorn Clayton, Nebraska	SO SO	11	21	295	14.0	4		6.8	1972	Oklah		368.8	
Sam Smith, Colorado	SO	11	83 52	290 269	3.5	5		6.4	1974	Oklah		438.8	
Anthony Stafford, Oklahoma	FR	10	44	242	5.2 5.5	0		4.5	1977	Oklah		328.9	
Keith Jones, Nebraska	SO	10	38	242	6.3	2		4.2	1978	Oklah		427.5	
remitodies, rebiaska				240	0.3	3	24	4.0	1980 1981	Nebra Oklah		378.3 334.3	
	RECEIV	INC	3			- 3			1982	Nebra		394.3	
									1983	Nebra		401.7	
Name/School	CL	G	CT	YDS	TD	CTPG	CTA	VG	1985	Nebra		374.3	
Richard Estell, Kansas	SR	12	70	1109	4	5.8		5.8					
Herbert Johnson, Missouri	JR	11	49	806	4	4.5		5.4		27			
Gerald Alphin, Kansas State	SR	9	34	524	3	3.8		5.4		N	CAA Tean	n	
Johnny Holloway, Kansas	JR	10	32	358	1	3.2		1.2	L	Defer	nsive Cha	mps	
Jeff Wodka, Iowa State	SR	11	35	390	o	3.2		1.1				10000	
Hughes Suffren, Iowa State	SO	10	31	433	4	3.1		1.0	Year	School	OI .	YPG	i
Bobby Riley, Oklahoma State	JR	11	33	610	2	3.0		3.5	1967	Nebra	ska	157.6	5
Andrew Jackson, Iowa State	JR	10	29	254	1	2.9		3.8	1984	Nebra	ska	203.3	
Sandy McGee, Kansas	SR	12	33	485	1	2.7	14	1.7	1985	Oklaho	oma	193.5	,
Willie Vaughn, Kansas	FR	12	28	441	5	2.3	15	5.8	Rushing				
Danny Gantt, Iowa State	SR	10	20	259	1	2.0	12	2.9	1938	Oklaho	oma	43.3	
Terry Wemer, Oklahoma State	SR	11	21	266	1	1.9	12	2.7	1946	Oklaho	- 1111	58.0	
Pat Thetford, Missouri	SR	11	21	254	1	1.9	12		1949	Oklaho		55.6	
Keith Jackson, Oklahoma	SO	11	20	486	2	1.8	24		1984	Oklaho		68.8	
Sylvester Byrd, Kansas	SR	11	20	197	3	1.8		8.6		Onland	o.nu	00.0	
J.R. Dillard, Oklahoma State	SO	11	20	184	2	1.8		9.2	Passing				
Thurman Thomas, Oklahoma State Kirk Thomas, Iowa State	SO	11	19	98	0	1.7		5.2	1939	Kansa		34.1	
Robb Schnitzler, Nebraska	SR	11	17	159	1	1.5		0.4	1958	lowa S		39.0	
Lynn Beck, Oklahoma State	JR SR	11	16	382	2	1.5	23		1960	lowa S		30.2	
Todd Elder, Kansas State	SO	11	16 16	245	1	1.5	15		1967	Nebra		90.1	
Todd Moody, Kansas State	JR	11	16	154	2	1.5		.6 .9	1973 1980	Nebra		39.9	
John Stonner, Kansas State	JR	9	12	142	Ó	1.3	11		1981	Nebra	s State	91.4	
Derrick Shepard, Oklahoma	JR	11	14	273	3	1.3	19		1982	Missou		100.1 123.5	
Victor Moore, Missouri	SO	9	9	111	1	1.0	12		1985	Oklaho		103.6	
			AIIF	Purp	ose F	Runr	ners						
Name/School			CL			US		PR	KOR	YDS	YDSPG		
Thurman Thoma			SO	11		553		115	15	1781	161.9		
Doug Dubose, N			JR	10		61	65	0	262	1488	148.8		
Darrell Wallace,			SO	11		20	16	98	356	1590	144.5		
Jamelle Holiewa			FR	9		361	0	0	0	861	95.7		
Richard Estell, K Bobby Riley, Okl			SR	12		0	1109	0	0	1109	92.4		
Bobby Hiley, Oki	a loria state		JR	11		0	610	102	247	959	87.2		

BIG EIGHT STATISTICS

		Sc	oring	7						(Quarterback Sacks
Name/School	CL	G	T	D	XP	FG	PTS	PTPG	FGA	No.	Player, Team
Thurman Thomas, Okla. State Tim Lashar, Oklahoma Dale Klein, Nebraska Jeff Johnson, Kansas Mark Hatcher, Colorado Jamelle Holieway, Oklahma Tom Whelihan, Missouri	SO JR JR JR SO FR SO	11 11 11 12 10 9	1	6 0 0 0 0 9	0 43 38 29 0 0	0 15 13 18 0 0	96 88 77 83 60 54 64	8.7 8.0 7.0 6.9 6.0 5.8	21 20 26 0	15-139 14-86 11-69 9-72 7-62 7-55 6-36	Jim Skow, NU Dan McMillen, CU Danny Noonan, NU Kevin Humphrey, KSU Dick Chapura, MU Leslie O'Neal, OSU Amonte Holloman, KU
	11	itero	eptic	ons						6-29 5-33	John Washinton, OSU Kevin Murphy, OU
Name/School	250		CL		G	NO	YDS	TD	IPG	5-29	Eldridge Avery, KU
Mark Moore, Okla. State Barton Hundley, Kansas State Sonny Brown, Oklahoma Milt Garner, Kansas Harry Roberts, Okla. State Ledell Glenn, Oklahoma Travis Hardy, Kansas			JR SR JR SO SR JR SR		11 11 11 12 11 11	7 6 5 5 4 4 4	176 53 80 47 76 17	3 1 0 0 7 0 6 2 7 0	.55 .45 .42 .36	5-24 4-46 4-31 4-26 4-25 4-23	Jeffery Hurd, KSU Perry Laures, ISU Brian Bosworth, OU Renneth Reed, KSU Curt Koch, CU Jeff Tupper, OU
That of the off the load		Field	d Goa							Fumb	le Recoveries
Name/School			CL		G	FGA	FC	PCT	FGPG	NO	Player, Team
Jeff Johnson, Kansas Tom Whelihan, Missouri Tim Lashar, Oklahoma Dale Klein, Nebraska Rick Frank, Iowa State Larry Eckel, Colorado Mark Porter, Kansas State			JR SO JR JR JR SR FR		12 11 11 11 11 11	26 25 21 20 16 16		6 .640 5 .714 8 .650 1 .687 8 .500 7 .875	1.45 1.36 1.18 1.00 .73 .64	4 3 3 3 3 3	Eric Troy, MU Jim Luebbers, ISU Milon Pitts, ISU Willie Pless, KU Travis Hardy, KU Derrick White, OU
Joey O'Donnell, Okla. State Brad Dennis, Okla. State			FR FR		11	10		600 1 .500			Passes Broken Up
Kickoff	Retui	ns								No.	Player, Team
(Min. 1.2 Returns Per Game) James Witherspoon, Kansas St. Darrell Wallace, Missouri Demetrius Scott, Kansas St.	SR SO FR	15 19 14	307 356 214	0 0 0	20.5 18.7 15.3					13 12 12 10 10	Terrence Anthony, ISU Milon Pitts, ISU Demise Williams, OSU Lyle Pickens, Cu Tony Rayburn, OU
Punt R					****					8	Barton Hundley, KSU Brad Lambert, KSU
(Min. 1.2 Returns Per Game) Robb Schnitzler, Nebraska Mark Wentzel, Kansas State Jo Jo Collins, Colorado Derrick Shepard, Oklahoma C.J. Eanes, Kansas Milon Pitts, Iowa State	JR FR SO JR SO JR	16 22 32 29 26 22	207 246 277 241 194 147	0 0 0 0 0	12.9 11.2 8.7 8.3 7.5 6.7					88888876666	Barry Remington, CU Tony Facinelli, MU Brian Davis, NU Mike Hudson, OSU Dennis Gibson, ISU Anthony Mayze, ISU Kevin Colon, ISU Aaron Manning, ISU
Pun	iting									6	Melvin Gilliam, OSU
(Min. 3.6 Punts Per Game)			CL		AVG					6	Ricky Adams, OSU Leonard Jackson, OS
Barry Helton, Colorado Troy Faunce, Kansas State Dan Wingard, Nebraska			SO SO SR	52 74 46	42.0					6	Erik McMillan, MU Interceptions
Rob Dickerson, Kansas Rich Thompson, Oklahoma State			JR SO	69 71	41.1					Ma	
Marlon Adler, Missouri Rick Frank, Iowa State			SR	60 69	40.4					No. 7	Player, Téam Mark Moore, OSU
Mike Winchester, Oklahoma	200		JR	56	39.9					6	Barton Hundley, KSU
Cahaal	Rush	ning G	Offel CAR		DS	AVG	T	ם עם	SPG	5 5	Milt Garner, KU Sonny Brown, OU
School Nebraska Oklahoma Colorado		11 11 11	697 749 647	41 36 28	17 594 358	5.9 4.9 4.4	4	0 3 5 3 3 2	74.3 35.8 59.8	4 4 4 3	Harry Roberts, OSU Travis Hardy, KU Ledell Glenn, OU Terrence Anthony, ISU
Oklahoma State Missouri Kansas Iowa State Kansas State		11 11 12 11	486 489 444 467 437	19 17 14 10	753 166 061 040	4.0 3.6 3.3 2.3 2.2	1	2 1. 7 1. 8	74.9 59.4 22.2 96.5 85.5	3 3 3 3	Mike Hudson, OSU Lyle Pickens, CU Brian Washington, NU Chris Carr, NU Ricky Dixon, OU

BIG EIGHT STATISTICS

	Rusi	hing Defe	ense					
School	7/4 67.77	G CAR	YDS	AVG	TD	YDSP	G	Individual NCAA Champs
Oklahoma Nebraska		11 405 11 446	988 1333	2.4	4	89 121	.8	Total Offense 1937 Whizzer White, CU
Colorado		11 462	1688	3.7		153		1944 Bob Fenimore, OSU
Oklahoma State		11 524	1703	3.3		154		1945 Bob Fenimore, OSU
Kansas		12 522	2140	4.1		178		1961 Dave Hoppman, ISU
Iowa State		11 521	2073	4.0		188		Rushing
Missouri		11 570	2455	4.3		223.		1937 Whizzer White, CU
Kansas State		11 608	2569	4.2		233.		1945 Bob Fenimore, OSU
	To	tal Defen	00					1969 Steve Owens, OU 1978 Billy Sims, OU
School	10	G PLYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDSP	G	1982 Ernest Anderson, OSU 1983 Mike Rozier, NU
Oklahoma		11 650	2128	3.3	9	193.	5	Passing
Nebraska		11 765	3070	4.0	16	279.		1942 Ray Evans, KU
Oklahoma State		11 792	3215	4.1	13	292.	3	Scoring
Colorado		11 754	3266	4.3		296.		1937 Whizzer White, CU
Iowa State		11 818	3705	4.5		336.		1942 Bob Steuber, MU
Kansas State		11 835	4126	4.9		375.		1949 George Thomas, OU
Kansas		12 867	4622	5.3		385.		1950 Bobby Reynolds, NU
Missouri		11 862	4582	5.3	39	416.	5	1956 Clendon Thomas, OU
	To	tal Offens	se					1969 Steve Owens, OU
School		G PLYS	YDS	AVG	TD	YDSP	G	1978 Billy Sims, OU
								1979 Billy Sims, OU
Nebraska		11 841	5197	6.2		472.		1983 Mike Rozier, NU
Oklahoma Kansas		11 860	4697	5.5		427.		100 1 C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C C
Missouri		12 870 11 824	4523 3966	5.2		376.		Heisman Trophy
Oklahoma State		11 774	3601	4.8	23 25	360. 327.		1952 Billy Vessels, HB, Oklahoma
Colorado		11 737	3325	4.7		302.		1969 Steve Owens, TB, Oklahoma
Iowa State		11 826	2893	3.5	17	263.		1972 Johnny Rodgers, WB, Nebraska
Kansas State		11 705	2214	3.1	11	201.		1978 Billy Sims, HB, Oklahoma
		Passing				201.	0	1983 Mike Rozier, IB, Nebraska
School					VDO	YDS		Vacas
		TT CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	ATT	TD	YDSPG
Kansas		126 235	13	55.2	3057	7.2	15	254.7
Missouri		335 163	19	48.7	2213	6.6	11	201.2
lowa State		359 172	16	47.9	1832	5.1	9	166.5
Oklahoma State Kansas State		288 135 268 118	14	46.9	1677	5.8	7	152.5
Nebraska		268 118 144 55	16 11	44.0 38.2	1274 1080	4.8	6	115.8
Oklahoma		111 54	4	48.6	1000	7.5 9.0	6	98.2 91.2
Colorado		90 32	7	35.6	467	5.2	2	42.5
	.,	Pass De			407	5.2	_	42.0
			ciciisc			YDS		
School		TT CMP	INT	PCT	YDS	ATT	TD	YDSPG
Oklahoma		245 107	18	43.7	1140	4.7	5	103.6
Oklahoma State		268 125	20	46.6	1512	5.6	7	137.5
Kansas State		227 114	13	50.2	1557	6.9	6	141.5
Colorado Iowa State		292 149	11	51.0	1578	5.4	7	143.5
Nebraska		297 124 319 153	8 20	41.8 48.0	1632 1737	5.5 5.4	11	148.4
Missouri		292 152	7	52.1	2127	7.3	14	157.9 193.4
Kansas		345 184	19	53.3	2482	7.2	15	206.8
	Ne	et Puntine						7257
School		P AVG	NO RET	YDS RET	NET AVG	TO		
Colorado		52 46.0	20	123	43.6	YD:		
Nebraska		48 41.7	14	88	39.9	239 200		
Oklahoma		57 39.8	12	70	38.6	227		
Kansas		71 40.3	28	182	37.7	285		
Oklahoma State		77 40.0	30	249	36.8	308		
Kansas State		86 40.5	45	356	36.4	348		
Iowa State		00 38.0	34	177	36.2	379	6	
Missouri		70 40.1	29	284	36.0	280	7	



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SOONERS

KLAHOMA S

Barry Switzer

SOONERS

Brian Bosworth

SOONERS HAVE THE HORSES TO DEFEND TITLE

hen Oklahoma held its 1985 spring practice finale, the Sooners did not have their normal Red-White intrasquad game. They only had a scrimmage.

Why not a formal spring game? Because there simply weren't enough healthy running backs to divide into two squads.

In the Reds' 17-7 victory over the Whites in the 1986 finale, the Sooners suited up eight scholarship halfbacks.

There have been a lot of changes in Norman since the spring of 1985. And the number of available halfbacks is only one of those changes.

There was quite a big deal made in the Oklahoma media about a quarterback "battle" this spring. But Holieway was never in danger of losing his starting status before the 1986 season begins. Eric Mitchel, another true freshman a year ago, improved greatly during the 20 days in April, but OU offensive coordinator Jim Donnan left little doubt that Holieway was still the No. 1 man.

"There's no uncertainty at quarterback," said Donnan after spring drills had concluded. "Jamelle is our No. 1 quarterback. He's going into the season as No. 1. Eric knows that. And he's got to win the job from him. There's a lot of public talk about it. But we've talked to our players about the situation, and we've discussed it with them how they stand.

"Eric knows what he's got to do. But I think there's a lot more talk about it than there ought to be. The reality is, Jamelle is an established quarterback. I don't think there's any speculation about Eric's future here. I think he's very happy here, and he's got a chance to be the No. 1 quarterback. And if he earns it, he's going to get it."

Actually, Mitchel was the winner in the Red-White game, directing his mates to their 17-7 victory against a team led by Holieway. The OU coaches split their squad evenly, rather than going first team against second. Mitchel, a speed merchant from Pine Bluff, Ark., rushed for 102 yards in 17 carries in the victory.

But Donnan admitted he had put shackles on Holieway in an effort to keep the Californian out of the open field and away from injuries. In contrast, Mitchel was turned loose in the offense — giving him an opportunity to show how much he's learned in the art of reading de-

fenses, making pitches on the corners, etc. He did well on all counts.

But when pre-season practice begins in August, Holieway (5-foot-10, 175-pounder) will be the No. 1 quarterback. It's tough to dislodge someone who took his team to eight straight victories — including wins over Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma State, SMU and Penn State—and a national championship.

Other different looks in the Sooners' spring practice this year included:

A veteran offensive line, with only one spot open for a new face.

A defensive backfield loaded with experience (nine players back from a secondary which led the nation in 1985) and talent (four freshmen redshirts who made an impact in April).

A truckload of talent at tight end, where All-American Keith Jackson (6-3, 241) found back-up help from Florida transfer Duncan Parham (6-5, 248) and redshirt freshman Terry Pritchard (6-6, 230).

Holieway and Mitchel were the only fulltime quarterbacks in camp this spring. Glenn Sullivan was playing baseball once again, and Leonard Thomas spent most of his time at split end. Aikman left the team after one week.

But the rest of the backfield was loaded with able bodies.

When the 1985 season opened, OU quickly lost (through injuries) halfbacks Spencer Tillman, Earl Johnson and Anthony Stafford. Johnson never returned to action, missing another season due to rehabilitation problems on a broken kneecap suffered in the 1983 game against Nebraska.

Stafford, a 5-7, 165 sophomore, had a great spring and was dead even with Tillman at left half. Tillman (5-11, 200 sr.) rushed for over 1,000 yards as a freshman, but has been injured and ineffective most of the past two seasons. Pat Collins, considered the best all-around halfback at Oklahoma, held the No. 1 spot on the right side. The 5-10, 185 junior scored the first touchdown for the Reds on a 50-yard run after Mitchel made a perfect pitch on the option.

Damon Stell (6-0, 196) had another great spring. And Don Maloney, who's perhaps the most physically gifted Sooner back, finally made it over the hump. The 5-11, 187 sophomore ran with authority and did not fumble — which has been his biggest problem.

Another pleasant surprise at OU this spring was the running of Earl Johnson. He has played both halfback positions and fullback, and looked to be in better physical condition (his knee) than he has since rushing for over 900 yards as a freshman.

There wasn't any suspense at fullback. Lydell Carr (6-2, 220) has been one of the best in the Big Eight the past two seasons and has two years left. He got fine support last spring from Leon Perry (6-1, 230), a true freshman who played both halfbacks and the fullback slot in the wishbone. Those two looked even better in the spring.

The depth was just as impressive at tight end, where Jackson has established himself as one of the nation's best. Parham, who sat out last sea-

son after playing as a true freshman at Florida and then transferring, is bigger and faster than Jackson. But he will have to be satisfied, apparently, with playing in double tight end situations. The real surprise there this spring was Pritchard, who was held back by an injury last year. He made giant strides in the spring, and gives the Sooners three tight ends who can play inside or out. Jackson, in fact, played split end in the spring game.

Wide receiver has been a problem at Oklahoma the past couple of years — at least as far as depth is concerned. The quality there has not been lacking. Derrick Shepard (5-11, 186) has been a solid performer there the past three years. And Lee Morris (5-10, 170) made the most of his opportunity last year and again this spring, when Sheppard missed the final week

with a broken wrist.

Along the front line, the Sooners are big,

talented and experienced.

Anthony Phillips (6-3, 288) and Mark Hutson (6-4, 290) were All-Big Eight last year at guards. Greg Johnson (6-5, 305) was one of the league's best until suffering a knee injury against Colorado that ended his season. He was back in top form this spring. And center Travis Simpson (6-3, 265) has been a steady performer.

But Simpson missed spring drills due to winter knee surgery, and sophomore Bob Latham (6-5, 260) made a strong bid for the

starting job.

The only open spot in that line was at left tackle, where Eric Pope graduated. Jeff Pickett started two years at OU before being injured in the second game of the 1985 season and never returned. Pickett elected to quit the team for personal reasons during the off-season.

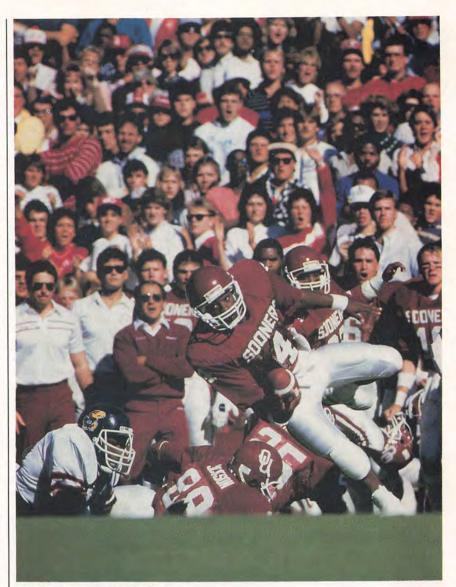
Jon Phillips (6-4, 280), the older brother of Anthony, held the starting job at left tackle through the spring, although Caesar Rentie (6-4, 288) pushed him with his best effort since coming to Norman. Richard Marks (6-5, 280)

is another possibility there.

There weren't many holes to fill on defense at Oklahoma, either. All-American noseguard Tony Casillas graduated, as did all-star end Kevin Murphy. Left tackle Jeff Tupper also ran out of eligibility, but Richard Reed (6-4, 260) played enough that he's considered a starter. Reed and Steve Bryan (6-3, 260) held their tackle jobs easily, as the depth at that position continues to be a concern among OU coaches.

Curtice Williams (6-3, 258) played well when called upon to take over for an injured Casillas early last fall. But the sophomore from Arkansas could not shake the challenge of third-year freshman Richard Davis (6-2, 252) in the spring. They are both slated for duty in the fall.

Darrell Reed (6-2, 211) has been an All-Big Eight performer his first two years at OU and has two left. He'll be joined at end by Troy Johnson (6-2, 225), who started almost all the 1984 season when Murphy sat out with an ankle injury. Those two starters have plenty of backup help from veterans Mike Mantle (6-2, 217) and Michael Aljoe (6-2, 225) and promising redshirt soph Kert Kaspar (6-3, 234).



Quarterback Jamelle Holieway

OKLAHOMA SOONERS

HEAD COACH: Barry Switzer, 14th season (126-24-4 overall, 80-10-1 in Big Eight).

1985 RECORD: 11 wins, 1 loss, including victory in the Orange Bowl (7-0 in the

Big Eight for first place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (11) Keith Jackson, 6-3, 241 jr. TE; Mark Hutson, 6-4, 290 jr. G; Travis Simpson, 6-3, 263 sr. C; Greg Johnson, 6-4, 305 jr. T; Anthony Phillips, 6-3, 288 soph G; Derrick Shepard, 5-11, 186 sr. SE; Jamelle Holieway, 5-10, 175 soph QB; Spencer Tillman, 5-11, 203 sr. HB; Patrick Collins, 5-10, 185 jr. HB; Lydell Carr, 6-2, 220 jr. FB; Tim Lashar, 5-9, 158 sr. K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (12) Darrell Reed, 6-2, 211 jr. E; Richard Reed, 6-4, 258 sr. T; Steve Bryan, 6-3, 254 sr. T; Paul Migliazzo, 6-1, 222 sr. LB; Dante Jones, 6-2, 221 jr. LB; Brian Bosworth, 6-2, 234 jr. LB; Ledell Glenn, 5-11, 185 sr. CB; Sonny Brown, 6-2, 190 sr. SS; Tony Rayburn, 6-3, 193 sr. SS; Ricky Dixon, 5-10, 180 jr. FS; Derrick White, 5-9, 187 jr. CB; Mike Winchester, 6-1, 180 sr. P. (Troy Johnson, 6-2, 225 jr. E started in 1984.)

With the return of the top five linebackers, there is plenty of depth and talent there for the top defense in the nation last year. Brian Bosworth (6-2, 235) was voted the best linebacker in the nation as a sophomore and he improved in the spring. Dante Jones (6-2, 221) and Paul Migliazzo (6-1, 225) continue to split time at the weakside spot, with reserves Evan Gatewood and Brad McBride also available. Redshirt sophomore Richard Dillon (6-0, 205) had a great spring, but there appears little playing time in store for him.

The competition in the secondary was more intense than at any position this spring. And it should continue that way in the fall.

Ricky Dixon (5-10, 180) is probably the best athlete and fiercest tackler of the bunch. And he should have a spot nailed down at free safety. Sonny Brown (6-2, 190) played both safety positions and cornerback last year, leading the team with seven interceptions - including two in the 25-10 win over Penn State in the Orange Bowl. The Alice, Tx., senior is slated to start at strong safety this season.

But Tony Rayburn (6-3, 193) has also started at both safeties. And David Vickers (6-4, 197) has played enough as a fifth defensive back to be considered a starter. Heralded redshirt freshmen Scott Thompson and Kevin Thompson will find it tough getting any playing time.

Derrick White (5-9, 187) finished the year as a big-play man at right corner. And Ledell Glenn (5-11, 185) came a long way at the other corner. But both found their starting jobs threatened in the spring.

Making most of the noise was redshirt frosh Ken McMichel (6-1, 185), who was starting at right corner by the end of spring. But Derrick Crudup (6-3, 215) has made giant strides since being moved from quarterback to split end and then to the secondary. And sophomore Scott Garl (6-1, 210) has gotten better and better. Redshirt freshman Carlos Scott (6-1, 190) could be as good as any of them. And Lonnie Finch (6-3, 175) was the only one of the freshmen to play last year.

Kickers Tim Lashar (15 of 21 field goals), Mike Winchester (39.9 punting average) and Todd Thomsen (kickoff specialist) all return.

The biggest problem facing Coach Barry Switzer and his defending conference and national champs is a schedule which opens with national title contender UCLA (Sept. 6), and also includes Minnesota, Miami of Florida and Texas in addition to the tough Big Eight slate.

The clash with UCLA was moved up a week to be the opening half of a day-night doubleheader which concludes with Florida State at Nebraska.

Miami was the only team to defeat OU last year, and the Hurricanes will have a home field advantage this fall. Oklahoma must also play on the road at Colorado and Nebraska, figured to be the leading contenders behind the Sooners in the league race. And Oklahoma State catches Oklahoma the week after the OU-Texas game in Dallas - a week which has almost always found the Sooners to be vulnerable to the upset.

OKLAHOMA TWO-DEEP

Offense

TE - Keith Jackson, 6-3, 241,, jr.; Duncan Parham, 6-5, 248, soph. or Terry Pritchard, 6-

LT - Jon Phillips, 6-4, 275, jr.; Caesar Rentie, 6-4, 288, jr.

LG - Mark Hutson, 6-4, 290, jr.; Al Laurita, 6-3, 263, jr.

C - Travis Simpson, 6-3, 265, sr.; Bob Latham, 6-5, 260, soph; Gary Bennett, 6-3, 260, soph.

RG - Anthony Phillips, 6-3, 285, soph; Mark Van Keirsbilck, 6-2, 250, fr.

RT - Greg Johnson, 6-4, 300, jr.; Richard Marks, 6-5, 280, ir.

SE - Derrick Shepard, 5-11, 186, sr. or Lee Morris, 5-10, 170, jr.

QB - Jamelle Holieway, 5-11, 175, soph; Eric Mitchel, 6-1, 195, soph.

LH - Anthony Stafford, 5-7, 175, soph. or Spencer Tillman, 5-11, 203, sr.; Don Maloney, 5-11, 187, soph.

FB - Lydell Carr, 6-2, 220, jr.; Leon Perry, 6-1, 230, soph.

RH - Patrick Collins, 5-10, 185, ir.; Damon Stell, 6-0, 196, jr.; Earl Johnson, 5-11, 192, sr.

K - Tim Lashar, 5-9, 158, sr.; Todd Thomsen, 6-1, 180, soph.

Defense

LE - Darrell Reed, 6-2, 211, jr.; Mike Mantle, 6-2, 217, sr.

LT - Richard Reed, 6-4, 258, sr.; Tony Woods, 6-5, 270, soph.

NG - Richard Davis, 6-2, 260, fr. or Curtice Williams, 6-3, 255, soph; Dante Williams, 6-2, 265, fr.

RT - Steve Bryan, 6-3, 260, sr.; Darren Kilpatrick, 6-4, 250, ir.

RE - Troy Johnson, 6-2, 225, jr.; Mike Aljoe, 6-2, 224, sr.; Kert Kaspar, 6-3, 235,

WLB - Dante Jones, 6-2, 221, ir. or Paul Migliazzo, 6-1, 222, sr.; Richard Dillon, 6-0, 200, soph.

SLB - Brian Bosworth, 6-2, 234, jr.; Evan Gatewood, 6-2, 217, sr. or Brad McBride, 6-2,

LC - Derrick Crudup, 6-3, 212, jr.; Scott Garl, 6-1, 205, soph or Carlos Scott, 6-1, 185,

SS - Sonny Brown, 6-2, 190, sr.; David Vickers, 6-4, 197, jr.; Scott Thompson, 6-0, 195,

FS - Ricky Dixon, 5-10, 180, jr.; Tony Rayburn, 6-3, 193, sr.; Lonnie Finch, 6-3, 175, soph; Kevin Thompson, 5-11, 185, fr.

RC - Derrick White, 5-9, 187, soph or Ledell Glenn, 5-11, 185, sr. or Kenneth McMichel, 6-1, 183, fr.

P — Mike Winchester, 6-1, 180, sr.; Todd Thomsen, 6-1, 190, soph.

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DLORADO

Bill McCartney

Rodney Rogers

BUFFS HOPING TOBE MORE **OFFENSIVE** IN '86



f it were as easy as switching to the wishbone offense, everyone would be doing it.

Still...

Colorado went from a 1984 Big Eight best of 230 yards per game passing to a league low of 42.5 per contest in 1985. The Buffaloes upped their yards per game rushing figure from fewer than 60 (worst in the Big Eight) to 259.8 (third in the conference).

And, in the all-important category, Coach Bill McCartney's Rocky Mountain boys went from 1-10 and last in the Big Eight in 1984 to 7-5 and third place last season.

Now, with 17 starters returning from that Freedom Bowl team and another full year in which to refine the wishbone, folks are wondering just how high the Buffs will bounce on the rebound.

One of the great mysteries of the past decade in Big Eight football is how Chuck Fairbanks could come to Boulder and take a program which had challenged for national honors to places usually reserved for Kansas State in league football.

Colorado had enjoyed some great seasons under former Oklahoma quarterbacking great Eddie Crowder in the 1960s and early '70s. In fact, the Buffs shot down a Sooner national title bid in 1972 with a 20-14 upset. And the year before Colorado finished third in the nation. And

third in the Big Eight.

Bill Mallory replaced Crowder in 1974 and Colorado continued to pack a punch. When Fairbanks, who was head coach at OU when the wishbone was introduced so effectively there in 1970 (and who had his shot at a national championship ruined by the Buffs in 1972) came to Boulder from the New England Patriots in 1979, there was speculation that a new power was being born in the Big Eight.

There's a reason they call it speculation. Those who bet on Fairbanks to take CU that final inch or two to the top lost a bundle. In three years at the nation's most beautiful university, Fairbanks' teams won seven games beating Kansas State twice, Iowa State, Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Indiana and Kansas.

Chuck's teams lost 26 times in those same three years. Some of the scores were downright embarrassing: 82-42 against Oklahoma in a 1-10 1980 campaign; 44-0 to LSU in 1979; 56-14 to UCLA in 1980; 38-10, 45-7 and 59-0 to Nebraska.

Had enough? So had the Colorado fans and officials. Fairbanks left after the 1981 season. He left a program which had lost its pride, its honor and its state support. All of those things were inherited by Bill McCartney when he left his assistant coaching job with Bo Schembechler and Michigan to try and work miracles where a miracle worker had failed.

The miracles were slow in coming. McCartney's first team went 2-8-1. Buffalo fans got excited when CU jumped to 4-7 in 1983, but it was back to 1-10 the following season. Colorado was creating some excitement on offense with the passing game. But you have

to pass a lot when you're always trying to catch up. And it seemed the Buffs were always trying

So McCartney, who grew up on Split-T football while playing at Missouri and coordinated a run-oriented offense at Michigan, said to heck with excitment. He moved perhaps the finest receiver in the Big Eight to halfback, put a couple other top pass catchers out to pasture as blockers and moved a backup halfback to quarterback.

Fairbanks had done something quite similar at OU in 1970, moving Greg Pruitt from split end to halfback and making a running quarterback out of Jack Mildren, who had been recruited because he was such a great passer. Oklahoma and the wishbone have been good friends ever since.

Colorado found out why.

In 1984, while throwing the football 396 times and running it only 390 (for 1.7 yards per carry), the Buffaloes allowed opponents to run off 811 total plays for 5.4 yards per snap - or a Big Eight worst of 395.2 yards per game. That was over 100 yards per game more than CU was producing with its offense.

In 1985, with a passing game that produced only 32 completions in 90 attempts for 467 yards, Colorado snapped the ball 737 times for 302.3 yards per game (4.5 per play) and allowed opponents only 754 snaps for 296.9 yards per game (and 4.3 per play). The Buffs outscored 11 regular season foes 211-154. The year before the margin was 172-364. Colorado didn't have the 364.

So, was the wishbone the magic that McCartney had been searching for all along?

Not really.

The switch in offense helped. But so did a defense which stayed healthy for a change. So did All-American punter Barry Helton. So did the emergence of Mark Hatcher as a wishbone quarterback. And the running of Ron Brown at halfback after being an All-Big Eight receiver the year before. So did the blocking of tight end Jon Embree after making All-Big Eight as a pass catcher deluxe in 1984 — his sophomore

Colorado used the ball control aspects of the wishbone to keep the other team from having a lot of scoring opportunities. And the Buffaloes used a tough defense to give their offense a chance to win almost every game.

Ohio State scored late to win, 36-13, after CU had opened its 1985 season with wins over Colorado State and Oregon. A 14-13 upset of Arizona on the road established McCartney's club as a definite Cinderella type - not an ugly step sister. Then came romps over Missouri (38-7) and Iowa State (40-6).

Even in a 17-7 loss at Nebraska the Buffs played like legitimate contenders. The defense held the Huskers at bay most of the day. And the offense, even without Hatcher and secondteamer Alan Strait, played well enough to keep NU fans on the edge of their seats.

The only game Colorado was out of all the way was a 31-0 loss at Oklahoma. The other



Tight end Jon Embree

COLORADO BUFFALOES

HEAD COACH: Bill McCartney, 5th season (14-30-1 overall, 8-19-1 in the Big

1985 RECORD: 7 wins, 5 losses, including loss in the Freedom Bowl (4-3 in the Big Eight, tied for third)

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (8) Pat Ryan, 6-3, 270 jr. T; Eric Coyle, 6-2, 270 sr. C; Chris Symington, 6-2, 270 jr. G; Jon Embree, 6-2, 225 sr. TE; Mark Hatcher, 6-0, 190 jr. QB; Anthony Weatherspoon, 6-0, 230 jr. FB; Sam Smith, 6-2, 205 jr. HB; Dave DeLine, 5-9, 170 soph K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (9) Kyle Rappold, 5-11, 245 jr. NT; Curt Koch, 6-7, 260 jr. T; Barry Remington, 6-4, 225 sr. LB; Don DeLuzio, 6-2, 220 jr. LB; Darin Schubeck, 6-2, 205 sr. LB; Solomon Wilcots, 5-10, 175 sr. CB; Mickey Pruitt, 6-1, 195 jr. SS; Rodney Rogers, 6-0, 180 jr. FS; Barry Helton, 6-3, 195 jr.



Quarterback Mark Hatcher

loss during the regular season came at home against Oklahoma State - which finished in a tie with CU when Iowa State upset the Pokes. Colorado should have won the Freedom Bowl against Washington, but lost, 20-17, on offensive mistakes.

So, will the miracles continue for McCartney in 1986? Or will reality come crumbling down around Folsom Stadium and fans who sud-

denly come to watch a football game - not each other?

There is no reason to think this latest Colorado team will be anything but an improvement over last year's — even though the record may not be any better. There are the 18 starters. There is the return of "bad boy" kicker Dave DeLine to handle placements. And there are some blue chip freshmen coming in who could make it tough on some of those starters to hold their jobs.

On the negative side is the schedule. The Buffs open at home against Colorado State, but then must travel to Oregon and Ohio State on back-to-back weekends. When Arizona comes to Boulder the week after CU's trip to Columbus, odds are good that the Wildcats will have revenge on their minds.

Then comes a Big Eight slate which includes road games at Missouri, Oklahoma State and Kansas State. It is doubtful even the home field advantage will be enough to change the outcome of what could be title showdowns with

Nebraska and Oklahoma in Boulder. But you never know ...

One thing McCartney did this spring to enhance his chances of making that big step past one of the Big Red powers was work on Hatcher's passing. With receivers like Jo Jo Collins (6-foot, 180-pound jr.), Drew Ferrando (5-11, 185 jr.) and Embree (6-2, 225 sr.), it's a shame not to be able to complete a pass now and then. So Hatcher, who led his team with 539 yards rushing last year, has worked hard on his aerial artistry.

The junior from Pasadena, Calif., may have had a little extra motivation by the knowledge that one of the nation's top high school option quarterbacks would be joining the Buffalo herd this August. Sal Aunese (6-0, 190) comes in from Oceanside, Calif., with the best of pedigrees. It's doubtful he can wrest away that starting quarterback job. But if Hatcher should get hurt...Well, remember Jamelle Holieway?

McCartney also hopes to get more mileage out of his halfbacks this fall. Sam Smith (6-2, 205 jr.) returns as the starter at right half. And Mike Marquez (5-11, 185 jr.) finished the spring as the No. 1 left half. Both had better watch out for the newest crop of Buff calves, however, as All-American prepster J. J. Flannigan (6-0, 185) heads a cast which also includes heralded runners Dave McCloughan (6-0, 175), O. C. Oliver (5-11, 185) and Michael Simmons (5-9, 190). Either, or all of those could wind up playing a lot this fall.

Fullback is well stocked — in quality and in size. Returning starter Anthony Weatherspoon is your basic Buffalo bull at 6-0, 240. When he gets tired, CU can turn to veteran Eric McCarty (6-1, 225). Both are juniors. Redshirt freshman Erich Kissick (5-11, 195) is the flyer of the bunch, just for a change of pace.

Collins and Ferrando had some healthy competition from junior Lance Carl (6-1, 185) this spring. All three should see playing time this fall, joining Embree to give Colorado perhaps the league's most talented receiving corps and almost certainly the least used, unless Hatcher makes a big turnaround.

The offensive line is built around All-American hopeful Eric Coyle (6-2, 270) at center. Chris Symington (6-2, 270 jr.) is back at one guard and Pat Ryan (6-3, 270 returns at a tackle.

Joe McCreary (6-4, 260) was moved from his backup tackle spot on the left side to the No. 1 job on the right side next to Symington. And redshirt freshman Bill Coleman (6-4, 250) played so well in the spring that he was switched from No. 2 right tackle to No. 1 left guard. Depth and size on the offensive line will be a Buff plus this fall.

Defensively, Colorado appears in even stronger shape. McCartney welcomes back eight of the 11 starters from a year ago, including All-Big Eight strong safety Mickey Pruitt and all-star candidate Barry Remington.

Pruitt (6-1, 195) earned all-league honors as a sophomore last fall, continuing Colorado's great tradition of turning out NFL-type defensive backs. But the gifted youngster from Chicago may not be the best player in the CU secondary. Free safety Rodney Rogers (6-0, 180 jr.) came on strong last fall after winning the job from John Nairn (6-0, 170), who also returns. Rogers had a career game (21 solo tackles) against OU.

Solomon Wilcots (5-10, 175) is back at one corner, with Tommy Streeter (6-1, 200) counted on to finally show his fascinating potential at the other. Streeter was suspended by the Colorado coaches during the spring, but is back on the team. Morris Coleman (5-8, 165) will play if Streeter continues to have problems. One or more of the incoming frosh could be factors here, also.

Up front the Buffs have starters back at nose tackle and right tackle in Kyle Rappold (5-11, 245) and Curt Koch (6-7, 260), both juniors. Paul Wilk (6-3, 255) had a serious knee injury and will miss at least this next year, with Jim Smith (6-6, 250) and Terry Jones (6-2, 225 freshman) competing for the left tackle job, with converted tight end Cole Hayes (6-4, 230 fr.) also playing well in the spring. Smith missed the spring with a knee injury, but should be back.

Remington (6-4, 225) heads a strong linebacking corps. The Boulder senior missed most of the 1984 season with injuries, and had his first injury-free year in 1985. He made the most of it, and promises to be one of the league's best this fall.

Also back as starters in that 3-4 defense will be outside backer Darin Schubeck (6-2, 205) and inside man Don DeLuzio (6-2, 220). The newcomer in the foursome will be Tom Reinhardt (6-3, 225), who moved in front of Tom Dunn (6-2, 220 freshman) in the spring.

Colorado may boast the best kicking combination in the nation this fall. Helton averaged 46 yards per punt last year, second in the country. And this spring he averaged 57 yards — just good enough to keep his job away from sophomore Keith English.

DeLine, who was suspended from the squad last year for disciplinary reasons, was back in line this spring and was sensational. He was a starter in 1984, and gives CU a threat for three points any time they cross midfield. ◆

COLORADO TWO-DEEP

Offense

SE — Jo Jo Collins, 6-0, 170, jr.; Drew Ferrando, 5-11, 190, jr.; Lance Carl, 6-1, 185, jr.

LT — Pat Ryan, 6-3, 260, jr.; Scott Rasmussen, 6-4, 250, jr.

LG — Bill Coleman, 6-4, 250, fr.; Dean Davis, 6-5, 275, soph.

C — Eric Coyle, 6-3, 260, sr.; Eric Norgard, 6-0, 235, soph.

RG — Chris Symington, 6-2, 270, jr.; Bob Lawrence, 6-3, 255, sr.

RT — Joe McCreary, 6-4, 260, jr.; Tim Harper, 6-5, 275, jr.

TE — Jon Embree, 6-2, 225, sr.; Troy Wolf, 6-4, 220, jr.

QB — Mark Hatcher, 6-0, 195, jr.; Alan Strait, 6-1, 185, jr.

FB — Anthony Weatherspoon, 6-0, 240, jr.; Eric McCarty, 6-1, 225, jr.; Erich Kissick, 5-11,

LHB — Mike Marquez, 5-11, 195, jr.; Jim Farrell, 6-0, 185, fr.

RHB — Sam Smith, 6-2, 205, jr.; Dion Dyson, 6-1, 205, jr.

K — Dave DeLine, 5-9, 170, soph; Matt Miller, 5-9, 165, soph.

Defense

LT — Jim Smith, 6-6, 250, jr.; Terry Jones, 6-2, 225, fr.; Greg Knight, 6-3, 230, fr.

NT — Kyle Rappold, 5-11, 245, jr.; Tim Stefan, 5-11, 230, jr.

RT — Curt Koch, 6-8, 255, jr.; Cole Hayes, 6-4, 230, fr.

OLB — Tom Reinhardt, 6-3, 225, jr.; Tom Dunn, 6-2, 220, fr.

ILB — Barry Remington, 6-4, 230, sr.; Jim Quackenbush, 6-0, 225, jr.

ILB — Don DeLuzio, 6-2, 225, jr.; Wayne Rafferty, 6-1, 205, jr. OLB — Darin Schubeck, 6-2, 205, sr.; Con-

OLB — Darin Schubeck, 6-2, 205, sr.; Conley Smith, 6-2, 210, jr.

LC — Solomon Wilcots, 5-11, 185, sr.; Tommy Streeter, 6-0, 210, jr.

SS — Mickey Pruitt, 6-1 205, jr.; Steve Beck, 5-11, 195, sr.

FS — Rodney Rogers, 6-0, 190, jr.; John Nairn, 6-0, 180, jr.

RC — David Tate, 6-1, 180, jr.; Morris Copeland, 5-8, 165, jr.

P — Barry Helton, 6-4, 200, jr.; Keith English, 6-3, 220, soph.

YCLONESJim Criner

CYCLONES SEEKING DIVISIONI **FINISH BEHIND ESPINOZA**



Dennis Gibson



lthough the moment certainly had a great impact on the two schools at the time, no one around the Big Eight realized last November 2 what an impact Missouri's lastminute heroics would have on the Big Eight Conference race.

When the Tigers scored with less than two minutes remaining, then added a winning twopoint conversion pass, Iowa State lost more than a 28-27 football game.

As improbable as it seemed at the time, the only Tiger victory of the season cost ISU a share of third place in the Big Eight. One play away from third place. A team which lost the week before to Oklahoma, 59-14, and which would lose the following week to Nebraska, 49-0, would have finished in a tie with Colorado and Oklahoma State for third in the league if that final Missouri effort had fallen short. Or if Rick Frank's 57-vard field goal try at the final gun had sailed a little longer.

The Cyclones were certainly a mystery team in 1985. They were humiliated by Iowa (57-3), Colorado (40-6), Oklahoma and Nebraska. They were embarrassed by Drake, a team which gave up football at the end of the season. And they were the only team all year that Missouri was able to defeat.

And yet Iowa State wound up 3-4 in the Big Eight, only a game behind Colorado and OSU. And the Cyclones of Jim Criner did a great deal in clearing up the post-season bowl picture when they stunned Oklahoma State, 15-10, on the same Saturday Oklahoma was winning over Nebraska, 27-7, to win a trip to the Orange Bowl.

Ironically, the 27 points scored by ISU against Missouri were the most the Cyclones could muster all season. They beat Kansas, 22-21, to open Big Eight play. And they scored 21 in a seven-point win over Kansas State the week before they shocked OSU. The only other time Iowa State managed as many as 20 points was the second week of the season in a 20-17 squeaker over Vanderbilt.

Criner's teams have been full of surprises since he came to Ames before the 1983 season.

His first squad gave up point totals like 51, 35, 49, 41 and 72, but still had enough good Saturday afternoons to post a 4-7 record and finish fifth in the Big Eight. Then in 1984 Criner concentrated more on defense. His team held Oklahoma to 12 points, Oklahoma State to 16, Kansas State to 7 and Missouri to 14. And Iowa State failed to win a one of those games.

Cyclone fortunes the past two seasons have seemingly been tied to the right arm of quarterback Alex Espinoza. And Missouri.

It was against Missouri in 1984 that Espinoza suffered a broken ankle that ended his first season after transferring to Iowa State from Cal State-Fullerton (where he started the final six games his freshman year). The Cyclones did not win again after his injury.

But the 6-foot-1, 192-pounder was so effective in 1984 that he led the Big Eight in total offense with 197.5 yards per game, passing for 1,580 yards (143 of 162) in only eight games. Last fall Espinoza suffered a huge setback before he played a game when All-American wide receiver candidate Tracy Mack was dismissed from the team.

Espinoza was seldom up to his 1984 form in 1985. For the year he hit only 159 of 330 passes, a .482 percentage (compared to .546 the year before), and was intercepted 13 times (five more than in 1984). He had only eight TD passes in 1985, two fewer than the year before when he threw nearly 70 less passes.

Still, his 1,704 yards last season was the third-best total in ISU history. And he's third on the school's career passing charts despite playing in only 19 games thus far. He needs only 821 yards this season to move ahead of David Archer, who is now with the Atlanta Falcons.

It was Archer's passing (21 of 35 for 262 yards) that led to the Cyclones' upset of Kansas last season. The former prep All-American at St. Paul High in Santa Fe Springs, Calif., was 24 of 47 for 250 yards in that bitter loss to Missouri. And Espinoza also scored on a 37-yard run in that game — the longest TD run of the season for ISU.

But there's the other side to Espinoza. He was only eight of 28 against Vandy for 95 yards; five of 12 for 33 yards against Colorado; nine of 24 for 86 yards against Nebraska; and nine of 26 for 96 yards in the upset win over OSU.

To be sure, the inconsistencies may not be so much Espinoza as they are a combination of pass protection, receivers hanging onto catchable balls, the running game being almost non-existent, etc. But when the Cyclone passing game is clicking, they have a chance to win.

Espinoza should enjoy a fine senior season if he stays healthy. His entire offensive line returns, as do two of his top wide receivers. Tight end Jeff Wodka (35 catches for 390 yards) and wideout Danny Gantt (20 for 259) both graduated. But ISU returns Hughes Suffren (6-3, 192, jr.), who caught 31 passes for 433 yards and four touchdowns in 1985, as well as tailback Andrew Jackson (29 for 254). Dennis Ross (6-3, 194, soph) started some at flanker last year as a freshman, but at the end of spring drills he and Suffren were sharing time at split end. Veteran Robbie Minor (6-0, 192, sr.) was holding a slight edge over juco transfer Eddie Brown (5-10, 170, jr.) at flanker. Also figuring to see some action at wide receiver is junior college record-setter Tom Schulting, who caught 93 passes last year.

Tom Stawniak (6-5, 249, jr.) is the heir apparent at tight end, although freshman Marcus Lester (6-6, 233) is a fascinating prospect.

The look up front for Iowa State is one of contrast. Seniors Vince Jasper (6-3, 266) and Eric Huhndorf (6-4, 264) return at the guard positions, while senior Brett Lawrence (6-3, 257) and sophomore Keith Sims (6-3, 296) are back at the tackles. Center Channon Mawdsley (6-3, 274) will start for the second straight year. He graded 84 percent against Oklahoma last year — the highest mark ever for an I-State center. The Sooners, however, were without Lombardi winner Tony Casillas at nose guard that afternoon.



Offensive Guard Vince Jasper

IOWA STATE CYCLONES

HEAD COACH: Jim Criner, 4th season (11-20-2 at lowa State, 70-41-3 overall, 6-13-2 in the Big Eight).

1985 RECORD: 5 wins, 6 losses (3-4 in the Big Eight, fifth place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (10) Hughes Suffren, 6-3, 188 jr. SE; Keith Sims, 6-3, 317 soph T; Eric Huhndorf, 6-4, 272 sr. G; Channon Mawdsley, 6-3, 259 sr. C; Vince Jasper, 6-3, 260 sr. G; Brett Lawrence, 6-3, 255 sr. T; Alex Espinoza, 6-1, 183 sr. QB; Andrew Jackson, 5-10, 185 sr. TB; Dennis Ross, 6-3, 205 soph FL; Rick Frank, 5-10, 180 sr. K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (9) Greg Liter, 6-6, 260 sr. T; Bill Berthusen, 6-5, 286 sr. T; Dennis Gibson, 6-3, 225 sr. LB; Jeff Braswell, 6-1, 224 sr. LB; Randy Richards, 6-3, 217 sr. LB; Terrence Anthony, 5-10, 183 sr. CB; Milon Pitts, 6-0, 183 jr. CB; Brian Reffner, 6-0, 182 jr. FS; Rick Frank, 6-0, 180 sr. P.



Alex Espinoza

While Criner is blessed with all that experience on the first-team line, he is looking at a lot of freshmen and sophomores as the depth. Injuries to his starters could put the Cyclones in a lot of trouble.

Jackson (5-10, 194, sr.) was the team's lead-

ing rusher last fall with only 415 yards (3.7 per try) and two touchdowns. In fact, the Cyclones scored only eight times on the ground and averaged just 2.3 yards per rush. That lack of a running threat adds to the pressure on Espinoza and his line.

But Iowa State coaches are hoping some newcomers can help beef up the ground game. Michael Brown (5-7, 160) of Cincinnati Princeton is not a big back, but he is one of the most dangerous runners ISU has signed in a long time. Curtis Warren (6-0, 200) had a good spring after transferring in from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College — the same school that produced former ISU All-American Matt Blair. And John Green (6-0, 195) has good credentials after coming to ISU by way of Fullerton Junior College and Michigan State.

Youngsters Joe Henderson (6-0, 200 soph) and Sylvester Nickerson (5-10, 205, fr.) were battling for the fullback job this spring.

One of the top Iowa State weapons last year was Frank, the former juco All-American kicker who hit 14 of 15 extra points and 11 of 16 field goals for the Cyclones in his debut. Frank was nine of 10 from inside 40 yards, and led his team in scoring with 47 points. His 34-yarder with three seconds left against Vanderbilt was the winner there, 20-17. And his 52-yarder was the only ISU scoring against Iowa.

While Iowa State's total offense figure of 263 yards per game was better only than the 201.3 by Kansas State in Big Eight stats (and 102nd in the nation), Criner's club did hold its own against most foes on defense.

Most of the key operatives from that 1985 defense return this fall, including linebackers Dennis Gibson (6-3, 240) and Jeff Braswell (6-1, 224), a pair of seniors who would be strong All-Big Eight candidates in most years.

Gibson led the team in tackles last year with 96, while Braswell had 82 after a phenomenal sophomore season which saw the one-time Florida prep standout total 146 stops — 89 of them unassisted. In his two years since transferring from Independence (Ks.) Junior College, Braswell has made 22 tackles for losses totalling 52 yards. He was named Sports Illustrated Defensive Player of the Week after a 19-tackle performance against Oklahoma in 1984 when the Sooners were forced to rally for a 12-10 win at Ames. Junior Chris Moore (6-2, 224) is one of the best backups in the league behind Braswell.

Tim Niggeling (6-2, 230, soph) will be the new face among the linebackers, as he pushed aside returning starter Randy Richards (6-3, 234, sr.) in the spring. And there will be a pair of newcomers at defensive ends for ISU. With Jim Leubbers and Lester Williams out of eligibility, the Cyclones will be relying on sophomore John Cinefro (6-2, 213) and freshman Dan Edwards (6-2, 225), although the picture there is not completely clear.

Tackles Greg Liter (6-6, 266) and Bill Berthusen (6-5, 285) are a pair of seniors who have been steady performers for Iowa State. Juniors Ken Sandbloom (6-5, 255) and Brad Henke (6-3, 262) provide depth, the former a juco transfer from Golden West in California.

The Iowa State secondary is loaded with ex-

perience and with seniors. Right corner Terrence Anthony (5–10, 186) is the most decorated, having been named honorable mention All-Big Eight a year ago. The other starting corner also returns in Milon Pitts (6–0, 189 sr.). Aaron Manning (5–11, 174 sr.) shared playing tie with Pitts last fall. Free safety Brian Reffner (6–0, 185 sr.) is the third returning starter in the defensive backfield, with the only "newcomer" senior letterman Terry Sheffey (6–0, 200) at strong safety. Sheffey moved past highly regarded Kevin Colon (6–0, 186) in the spring, after Colon earned part-time starter status last fall in his first season after transferring from Butler Community College.

Reffner handled punting duties early, but averaged only 32.6 yards per try. Frank wound up taking over the job and averaged 40.4 on 69 kicks, his longest 67 yards. Frank punted 12 times in the first team's 35-0 win over the re-

serves in Iowa State's spring finale.

Espinoza was 14 of 26 for 163 yards in that contest, with backup Derek DeGennaro 5 of 11 for 72 yards. The Cyclones are hoping redshirt Brett Sadek (6-2, 201 jr.) will be able to make an impact at quarterback behind Espinoza after the former Apple Valley (Mn.) star sat out a year following his transfer from the University of Minnesota, where he started as a freshman.

Criner was pleased overall with the offensive improvement of his team this past spring.

"How do I compare this spring and last? Here's the difference: Last year it didn't make any difference who you'd put on defense, we struggled to make a first down. This spring our offensive unit has moved the ball in any situation we've put them in. We have made a great deal of improvement in an area we needed to, and that's on offense.

"We accomplished what we wanted to. I felt very good about the way our receivers caught the ball, and I was also pleased with the play of our running backs. I'm excited about the po-

tential at both positions.

"I think we have a chance to be much more competitive that we have been in previous years in the Big Eight. I think we're going to end up being a very good offensive team, and we'll continue to be a good defensive team. If we do that, if we stay healthy, and get some early momentum, we'll be in a position to contend for those top four spots."

The early momentum may be difficult to develop. Iowa States opens its 1986 season at Iowa, where the Hawkeyes should be down some from the past two years, but not down that much. If the Cyclones can maintain their health and their positive attitude after that one, however, they could get rolling with home dates against Indiana State, Wichita State and Wyoming before they open their conference

season at Kansas.

A negative on the schedule is the fact that ISU plays the other contenders for those final two positions in the first division (after Oklahoma and Nebraska) on the road. Criner must take his team to Colorado, Missouri and Oklahoma State, with his only home league games against the Sooners, Huskers and Kansas State. •

IOWA STATE TWO-DEEP

Offense

SE — Dennis Ross, 6-3, 194, soph; Hughes Su.ffren, 6-3, 193, ir.

LT — Keith Sims, 6-3, 296, soph; Anton Petrzelka, 6-5, 264, jr.

LG — Eric Huhndorf, 6-4, 264, sr.; Casey Hayes, 6-0, 260, sr.

C — Channon Mawdsley, 6-3, 274, sr.; David Heyn, 6-1, 249, soph.

David Heyn, 6-1, 249, soph. **RG** — Vince Jasper, 6-3, 266, sr.; Eric

Holm, 6-5, 248, fr. **RT** — Brett Lawrence, 6-3, 257, sr.; Dave

Martin, 6-6, 287, fr. **TE** — Tom Stawniak, 6-5, 249, jr.; Marcus

TE — Tom Stawniak, 6-5, 249, jr.; Marcus Lester, 6-6, 233, fr.

QB — Alex Espinoza, 6-1, 192, sr.; Derek DeGennaro, 6-3, 198, jr. or Brett Sadek, 6-2, 201. ir.

FB — Joe Henderson, 6-0, 200, soph; Sylvester Nickerson, 5-10, 205, fr.

TB — Andrew Jackson, 5-10, 194, sr.; Curtis Warren, 6-0, 200, jr.

FL — Robbie Minor, 6-0, 192, sr.; Eddie Brown, 5-10, 170, jr.

K — Rick Frank, 6-1, 207, sr.; Keith Kimberly, 5-10, 200, soph.

Defense

LE - John Cin, efro, 6-2, 213, soph.

DT — Greg Liter, 6-6, 266, sr.; Brad Henke, 6-3, 262, jr.

DT — Bill Berthusen, 6-5, 285, sr.; Ken Sandbloom, 6-5, 255, jr.

RE — Don Edwards, 6-2, 225, fr.; Scott Benson, 6-3, 246, jr.

WOLB — Dennis Gibson, 6-3, 240, sr.; Anthony Hoskins, 6-1, 219, soph.

MLB — Jeff Braswell, 6-1, 224, sr.; Chris Moore, 6-2, 224, jr.

SOLB — Tim Neggeling, 6-2, 230, soph; Randy Richards, 6-3, 234, sr.

RCB — Terrence Anthony, 5-10, 186, sr.; John Dozier, 5-10, 180, jr.

LCB — Milon Pitts, 6-0, 189, sr.; Aaron Manning, 5-11, 174, sr.

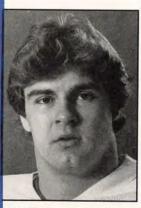
SS — Terry Sheffey, 6-0, 200, sr.; Kevin Colon, 6-0, 186, sr.

FS — Brian Reffner, 6-0, 185, sr.; Jeff Dole, 6-1, 192, soph.

P— Rick Frank, 6-1, 207, sr.; Brian Reffner, 6-0, 185, sr.

YHAWKS ANSAS

Bob Valesente



Jim Davis

JAYS COUNTING **ON ORTH TO SPARK OFFENSE**

he year was 1968, and Kansas had just completed a 9-1 regular season as cochampions with Oklahoma in the Big Eight Conference. Bobby Douglass and John Zook took All-American credentials to the Orange Bowl, where the Jayhawks dropped a memorable 15-14 decision to Penn State.

Kansas will be suiting up some players this fall who were not born when the school made its last appearance in the Orange Bowl - losing in the final seconds of the infamous "12th Man" game. Pepper Rodgers coached the Jays to that 9-2 season in 1968, then saw his team go 1-9 the following year. Pepper left a year later.

Also come and gone as KU coaches since that time are Don Fambrough, Bud Moore, Fambrough (again) and Mike Gottfried. All have found out pretty much the same thing: championship trophies in Lawrence usually have

basketballs on them, not footballs.

Back-to-back winning seasons in Kansas football are about as rare as back-to-back losing seasons in KU basketball. Jayhawk fans get a taste of success every few years, but then it's back to the reality of second-class citizenship in the Big Eight.

And yet Kansas has had some of the top athletes in the Midwest. Douglass and Zook on that 1968 team. Nolan Cromwell (some call him the Big Eight's greatest modern athlete). Ray Evans and John Hadl. John Riggins and Gale Sayers. Laverne Smith. Bruce Adams, Mike Butler and Emmett Edwards. Zook and punter Bucky Scribner.

And yet KU has consistently floundered about in the "middle division" of the league.

Last year, for instance, Kansas opened its season with three straight victories before Oklahoma even opened its season. The Jays lost at Florida State, but put up a great battle against the nationally-ranked Seminoles before falling, 24-20. They upped their record to 4-1 the following week and appeared to be in good shape to chalk up a second straight first-division finish in the league race.

Then Kansas lost a 22-21 shocker to Iowa State. The only wins for Gottfried's club in the final seven weeks of an extended season came against arch-rivals Kansas State and Missouri. Kansas was bombed by Oklahoma and Nebraska on the road and lost at home to Oklahoma State and Colorado. All of those high hopes for a team which returned 21 starters from the 1984 cinderella season wound up buried in a 6-6 campaign — only 2-5 in the Big Eight for sixth place.

Now Bob Valesente has inherited the job vacated by Gottfried (hired by Pittsburgh after rumors had the Panthers ready to hire Oklahoma State boss Pat Jones) and a squad which has to wonder what 1986 holds in store.

This is a KU team which returns only five starters on offense, 13 starters overall and has to find a way to forget about the late-season collapse in 1985. It is a team which must replace the entire offensive backfield - including quarterback Mike Norseth - and three of its top four wide receivers.



But Valesente has been around KU long enough (he was an assistant two years with Gottfried before stepping up last winter) to know that the Jays usually save their best for times when the worst is expected.

"Mike Gottfried left a real sense of pride and a sense of good feeling - real team unity," said Valesente, the 34th head coach in the 96-year history of Kansas football. "He left a lot of tradition of outstanding football. I'm even more excited about what's going to happen in the future. What I would like to accomplish is to continue on with what Mike Gottfried has done."

Actually, Gottfried didn't do that much as far as wins and losses are concerned. His first team in 1983 was 4-6-1. His second was forced to overcome an unbelievable string of misfortune to put that 5-6 (4-3 for fourth in the Big Eight) record together. And his last (in 1985) had all those high expectations, the fast start and the

nightmarish finish.

Still, Valesente is a Gottfried fan. The two served together at Cincinnati, where they developed a wide open, high powered offense that brought the Bearcat program into the national spotlight - and Gottfried to Kansas. In 1984 Valesente was called to Lawrence to help develop that same aerial game for Gottfried and his Jays.

He did just that.

Two years after Frank Seurer threw for a Big Eight record 2,789 yards, Norseth took over the KU controls and threw for 2,995 yards.

The Jayhawks also had the top career receiver in the school's history (Richard Estell, who caught 70 for 1,109 yards in 1985) and the No. 1 total offense leader in the Big Eight (Norseth). They ranked first in passing offense, third in total offense (376.9 yards per game) and third in scoring offense (24.5 points per game).

But KU was last in the conference in pass defense and next to last in total defense (385.2).

Only Missouri was worse.

Eight starters return from that 1985 defensive unit. Another of those good news-bad news stories. The good news is that the defense will be experienced. The bad news is that the defensive experience a year ago was mostly bad.

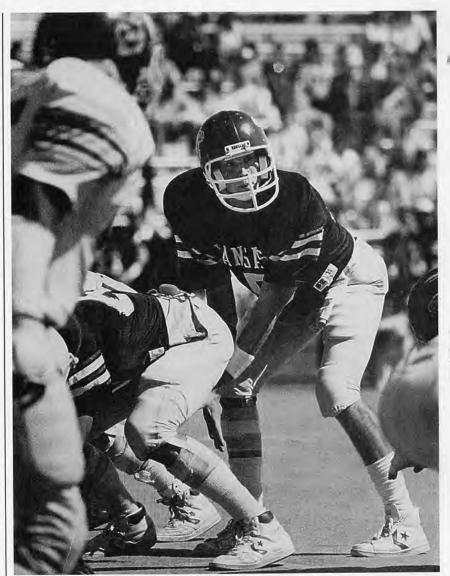
Valesente knows about adversity. He was a part of the Chicago Cubs baseball organization in 1962-63 — after graduating from Ithaca (N.Y.) College. After giving up baseball for football, Valesente's coaching career took him from Cornell to Cincinnati, then on to Arizona and Mississippi State before a two-year stint as secondary coach for the Baltimore Colts.

Then it was on to Kansas for his reunion with Gottfried.

Ironically, Valesente was the defensive coordinator at Mississippi State when the Bulldogs blanked Kansas, 10-0, in the 1981 Hall of Fame Bowl.

Now he'd not only love to get Kansas back to a bowl game, he'd like to have a defense capable of shutting someone out.

"We'll be young on offense, and certainly one of the keys will be to replace Mike Norseth



Quarterback Mike Orth

KANSAS JAYHAWKS

HEAD COACH: Bob Valesente, 1st season (first season as a head coach).

1985 RECORD: 6 wins, 6 losses (2-5 in Big Eight, sixth place)

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (5) Jim Davis, 6-6, 260 jr. T; Bryan Howard, 6-5, 260 sr. G; Paul Oswald, 6-4, 260 sr. C; Bob Pieper, 6-5, 270 sr. T; Willie Vaughn, 6-0, 180 soph FL

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (9) Steve Nave, 6-2, 245 sr. T; Eldridge Avery, 6-3, 255 jr. T; Phil Forte, 6-3, 245 sr. E; Darnell Williams, 6-2, 228 sr. LB; Rick Bredesen, 6-1, 230 jr. LB; John Randolph, 6-1, 230 sr. LB; Milt Garner, 5-11, 180 jr. CB; Wayne Ziegler, 6-2, 190 sr. FS; Rob Dickerson, 6-2, 175 sr. P.



Rick Bredeson

at quarterback," said the new coach. "The major thing about our defense is becoming more consistent in all phases of play."

In an effort to develop that consistency on defense, Valesente has switched from the 3-4 style Gottfried relied upon to a 4-3 set. That should continue to showcase the linebacking talents of Rick Bredesen, John Randolph and Darnell Williams. And it will give Steve Nave, Phil Forte and Eldridge Avery an opportunity to come into their own in a league which has become known for its great defensive linemen.

Nave is a 6-foot-2, 244-pound senior who did not play in 1984 after part-time duty the previous two falls. One of the strongest Jayhawks, he made the adjustment to the new defensive style with few problems this spring. And he has continued to progress as a leader for

Forte (6-3, 245) is another senior who's anxious to leave Lawrence on a high note. He'll be at one end, with either Jon Stewart (6-4, 230 jr.) or juco transfer Teddy Newman (6-4, 235 jr.) at the other. Newman led the nation's junior colleges last year in quarterback sacks. Eldridge Avery (6-3, 255) was one of the most promising young defensive linemen in the league last year as a sophomore, and he could blossom into a star this fall.

The Jays had one of the best linebackers in the Midlands last fall in Willie Pless, and they'll certainly miss his fine play. But the graduation of Pless did not leave the linebacker cupboard bare in Lawrence.

Best of the bunch is Bredesen, a 6-1, 215 junior who came to KU as a fullback and was moved to linebacker before he played a down. The Shawnee Mission South product was in on 108 tackles as a freshman and 121 last year. He's already had 11 tackles for losses in his two

Flanking Bredesen in that new 4-3 alignment will be Williams (6-2, 228 sr.) and Randolph (6-1, 230 sr.). Randolph came to Kansas last year from Coffeyville Junior College and started along with Pless and Bredesen. He was in on 111 tackles — eight for losses. The former juco first-team All-American should be even better this fall with a year of major college experience. Williams was held out of spring drills due to academic difficulties (Valesente got tough with three other key players, forcing them to concentrate on the books last spring instead of football).

The secondary was a sore spot for KU last year, and it will have to prove itself this fall before the Jayhawk defense can show drastic improvement.

Free safety Wayne Ziegler (6-2, 190 sr.) is an outstanding player, although he missed seven games last fall due to a pair of knee injuries. Marvin Mattox (6-4, 205 jr.) and Milt Garner (5-11, 180 jr.) started last fall at strong safety and cornerback, respectively. Juco transfer Mike Fisher (5-11, 175 jr.) is slated to start at the other corner.

Offensively, KU has an experienced look up front, but will be relying on a lot of new faces in the backfield.

Tackle Jim Davis (6-6, 260 jr.) is the best of the big boys up front. He started at Kansas as a freshman and sophomore, earning secondteam all-conference honors last fall. He was a freshman All-American in 1984.

Bob Pieper (6-5, 270 sr.) is at the other tackle after starting there last year, and Paul Oswald (6-4, 260 sr.) and Bryan Howard (6-5, 260 sr.) return to their spots at center and guard, respectively. Oswald injured a knee late last season, but seems fully recovered. Sophomore Jim Shannon (6-5, 250) is the leading candidate to hold down the other guard position in the fall.

With Norseth running out of eligibility, the starting quarterback job was inherited by Mike Orth. The 6-5, 195 junior redshirted last year after showing great promise his first two seasons behind Seurer and Norseth. Now the Liberal, Ks., grad made his first collegiate start in 1983 against Oklahoma State when Seurer was injured. He played in nine of 11 games in 1984, hitting 33 of 63 passes for 471 yards and a touchdown.

Orth hit 15 of 25 passes in the spring game, good for 133 yards and a TD. He's got the arm and the size to give him a shot at some of those records set by Norseth. But he doesn't have the experience at the receiver position that he'd like to have.

Willie Vaughn (6-0, 180) is the only returning regular at a receiver spot. He was a highly recruited quarterback out of Kansas City Wyandotte High in the winter of 1985, moved to wide receiver when he got to KU and surprised everyone by becoming one of the Big Eight's best in his first year of major college action. Vaughn caught 28 passes last fall for 441 yards and five touchdowns. He has gamebreaking speed and great hands. His five TDs were the most by a KU receiver last year. Vaughn was also an All-State basketball player in high school and is a member of the KU indoor track team.

Drake transfer Rodney Harris (5-10, 170 soph.) and letterman Murphy Ray (6-1, 180 jr.) are fighting it out for the split end spot, with Mark Parks (6-5, 220 jr.) and Brad Wedel (6-5, 210 jr.) at tight end. The wide receiver corps will be bolstered by senior Tom Quick and high school All-American Quinton Smith from Houston.

The running game for the Jays will fall into the hands (and legs) of junior Mike Rogers, a 6–1, 180-pounder who was pushed into the starting role last season due to academic and other problems involving the two tailbacks ahead of him. Rogers wound up with just 75 carries for 289 yards last fall, but he had a good spring to solidify his hold on the starting job for 1986. Scott Schriner, another junior, backs up Rogers. Letterman Mark Henderson (6–0, 210 jr.) has the edge at fullback, with Tim Ledford (6–1, 230) behind him.

Kansas should be well set in the punting department, with Rob Dickerson (41.1 yards per kick in 1985) back for another year. Chase Van Dyne saw duty as a junior varsity place kicker last year and is slated to take over for Jeff Johnson, who led all Big Eight kickers with 18 field goals (in 25 attempts) last season.

While there are enough problems to keep Valesente from being overconfident as he enters his first year as a head coach, the KU schedule is a plus. The Jayhawks open Sept. 13 at Lawrence against North Carolina of the ACC, and Kansas plays four more home games before hitting the road for the first time Oct. 18. It's the first time since 1908 that Kansas has opened with five straight home games. The other non-league foes are Utah State, Indiana State and Southern Illinois. Then KU begins Big Eight play at home against Iowa State.

If the Jays are going to bounce back into the first division, they'll have to win on the road against the other contenders for the three and four spots (assuming Nebraska and Oklahoma maintain their control of the top two). Kansas goes to Oklahoma State Oct. 25, sandwiches a road date at Colorado around home games with the two Big Reds, then finishes up at Missouri.

Returning to the first division will not be easy. But Kansas has made a habit of coming up with surprises — both the bad kind and the good. •

KANSAS TWO-DEEP

Offense

SE — Murphy Ray, 6-1, 180, jr.; Rodney Harris, 5-10, 170, soph.

LT — Jim Davis, 6-6, 260, jr.; Von Lacey, 6-5, 270, jr.

LG — Bryan Howard, 6-5, 260, sr.; Steve Isham, 6-4, 250, ir.

C — Paul Öswald, 6-4, 260, sr.; Pete Popovich, 6-5, 240, sr.

RG — Jim Shannon, 6-5, 250, soph; Mitch Gaffen, 6-3, 240, jr.

RT — Bob Pieper, 6-5, 270, sr.; Mike Werner, 6-5, 240, jr.

TE — Mark Parks, 6-5, 220, jr.; Brad Wedel, 6-5, 210, jr.

QB — Mike Orth, 6-5, 195, jr.; Robby Santos, 6-4, 210, jr.

TB — Mike Rogers, 6-1, 180, jr.; Scott Schriner, 5-11, 195, jr.

FB — Mark Henderson, 6-0, 210, sr.; Tim Ledford, 6-1, 230, jr.

FL — Willie Vaughn, 6-0, 180, sr.; Ronnie Caldwell, 6-0, 185, jr.

K-Chase Van Dyne, 6-2, 200, soph.

Defense

LE— Jon Stewart, 6-4, 230, jr.; Teddy Newman, 6-4, 235, jr.

LT — Steve Nave, 6-2, 245, sr.; Mark Koncz, 6-5, 240, sr.

RT — Eldridge Avery, 6-3, 255, jr.; Guy Gamble, 6-3, 245, sr.

RE—Phil Forte, 6-3, 245, sr.; Scott Carlson, 6-6, 230, soph.

OLB — Darnell Williams, 6-2, 228, sr.; Rick Clayton, 6-3, 215, soph.

ILB — Rick Bredesen, 6-1, 230, jr.; Carlos Barrow, 6-2, 220, soph.

OLB — John Randolph, 6-1, 230, sr.; Stacy Henson, 6-1, 235, jr.

CB — Mike Fisher, 5-11, 175, jr.; Tony Berry, 6-1, 175, sr.

CB — Milt Garner, 5-11, 180, jr.; Derek Berry, 6-3, 195, jr. or Johnny Granderson, 6-2, 190, soph.

FS — Wayne Ziegler, 6-2, 190, sr.; Kevin Harder, 6-2, 185, sr.

SS — Marvin Mattox, 6-4, 205, jr.; Jamey Steinhausesr, 6-0, 195, jr. or Mark Brown, 5-10, 175, jr.

P-Rob Dickerson, 6-2, 175, sr.

WILDCATS STATE

Stan Parrish

ANSAS

Bob Bessart

NEW COACH DOESN'T CHANGE K-STATE OUTLOOK

ansas State led the Big Eight Conference in punt returns last season. Other than that, it wasn't much of a year.

The Wildcats tied for last in the conference race as they and Missouri each finished 1-10 overall and 1-6 in the Big Eight. K-State was last in rushing offense, last in total offense and in scoring, last in rushing defense. After "loading up" to go 6-5-1 in 1982, including the school's first bowl appearance (a loss), the Wildcats have been traveling the down side of the mountain: 3-8, 3-7-1 and then 1-10.

It was enough to make Jim Dickey an exhead coach.

Dickey, who suffered through a 2-9 season in 1981 while redshirting several key players, took the 'Cats to the summit in 1982. Or the summit as far as Kansas State is concerned. He was named the Big Eight Coach of the Year after his veteran team of redshirts finished 3-3-1 in the conference and 6-4-1 in the regular sea-

To put things in perspective, the last time the Wildcats had finished a season with more wins than losses was in 1970, when Lynn Dickey (no relation to Jim) led his mates to a 6-5 campaign. In fact, only twice since 1954 has K-State posted a winning season. In 12 of those years the 'Cats won two or fewer games.

You play in a lot of homecoming games



when you have that kind of tradition. And it does not appear as though things are going to change for a while — no matter how optimistic new boss Stan Parrish is.

Parrish has a right to be optimistic. As a head coach he has taken high school and college teams to 75 wins and three ties against only 20 losses. His collegiate head coaching record is 55-11-2 (at Wabash College in Indiana and at Marshall University the past two seasons before coming to Manhattan.)

But Parrish, who served at one time as the quarterback coach at Purdue, is probably in for a shock. There is a big difference in talent at Manhattan and talent at places like Lincoln and Norman. His five teams at Wabash lost a total of three games. He should equal that by the middle of October...perhaps sooner.

The Wildcats beat Missouri last fall, 20-17, in Columbia. That enabled them to tie the Tigers for last place in the league. They scored 22 points in a two-point loss to TCU the week the Horned Frogs confessed to being a professional football team. In its other nine games in 1985 Kansas State scored 14 points or less.

With that in mind, Parrish did not come in with intentions of trying to make eight returning offensive starters more talented in 1986. He realized the talent was lacking.

Instead, Parrish spent the spring trying to teach his biggest challenge as a coach — a new offensive system. Even some people in the K-State program are still trying to figure out exactly what to call it. Kent Dean, for instance, is one of those returning starters. He started at tight end last year. He's nowhere to be found on the depth chart made at the end of spring drills. In fact, there is no tight end to be found.

The Wildcats now have X, Y and Z receivers. They're 5-foot-9, 175 and 5-10, 175 and 6-0, 170. Dean is 6-4, 225. Get the picture? Parrish plans to put the ball in the air this fall. And he plans to throw to little guys who can run...little guys who can score in a hurry.

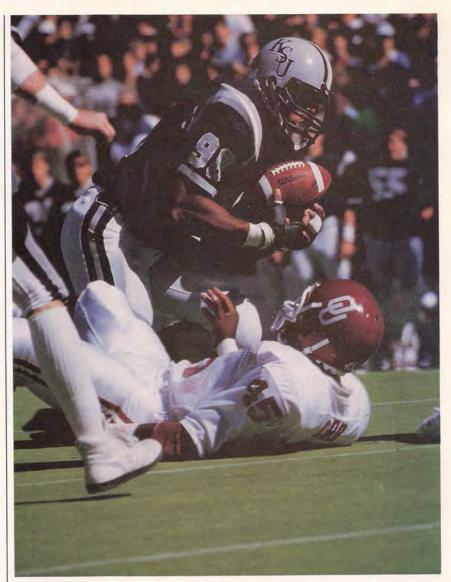
The idea might be a good one. But Parrish did not find a Lynn Dickey at quarterback this spring. He found a Randy Williams. Randy Williams was not even listed among the Big Eight passers last year. Nor was he listed among the Big Eight top 25 in total offense. The Wildcats completed only 118 of 268 passes on the season, with 16 interceptions and only six touchdowns. K-State was far and away the worst team offensively in the conference with only 201.3 yards per game (61.7 per game worse than Missouri, which was seventh).

Beefing up the passing game might not be the answer, even if Parrish did have a Lynn Dickey look-a-like. Teams which have finished on top of the league passing stats in recent years have not fared that well in the standings.

But the 'Cats rushed for only 85.5 yards per game last fall — and only five TDs.

Parrish is ready to try anything to get Kansas State competitive in the Big Eight. And putting the ball in the air is his specialty. It's as simple as X, Y, Z.

Going into the spring, there were those eight returning starters. When spring drills ended with a 24-0 win over the alumni, only three of



Kevin Humphrey

KANSAS STATE WILDCATS

HEAD COACH: Stan Parrish, 1st year (75-20-3 in 8 years at Wabash College and 2 years at Marshall).

1985 RECORD: 1 win, 10 losses (1-6 in Big Eight, tied for seventh place).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (9) Charles Sander, 6-2, 280 sr. C; Bob
Bessert, 6-2, 275 sr. G; Rockey Dvorak, 6-5, 280 sr. T; Kent Dean, 6-4, 225 jr. TE;
Randy Williams, 6-2, 205 jr. QB; Ray Wilson, 6-1, 205 jr. FB; Todd Moody, 6-2,
200 sr. TB; Todd Elder, 6-3, 195 jr. FL; Mark Porter, 6-0, 185 soph K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (7) Jeff Hurd, 6-2, 245 sr. E; Kevin Humphrey, 6-3, 240 sr. E; Tim MacDonald, 6-3, 235 jr. LB; Dwayne Castille, 6-0, 225 jr. LB; David Wallace, 6-1, 215 jr. LB; Brad Lambert, 5-10, 175 jr. CB; Troy Faunce, 6-2, 185 sr. P.



Jeffery Hurd

those were listed as first-teamers. Parrish has shaken things up a bit.

One of those who held his job is Williams, a 6-foot-2, 205-pound junior who started last season, but did not have the kind of season he and his coaches had anticipated. The Jacksonville, Fla., native is big, strong and fast. He started one game as a true freshman in 1984. In the spring game Williams connected on five of eight passes for 61 yards. Senior John Welch (6-1, 203), who also saw some starting duty a year ago, stayed in the hunt by hitting six of nine for 59 yards. Freshman Chris Cobb (6-3, 190 from Dallas Lake Highlands) could challenge for playing time at quarterback this fall.

The other two offensive starters from '85 who kept their jobs through the spring were linemen Rockey Dvorak (6-5, 280 senior tackle) and Bob Bessert (6-2, 275 senior guard). But center Charles Sander lost his job to sophomore Rob Goode (6-2, 230), and backfield starters Todd Moody and Ray Wilson were nudged out by James Ricketts (6-0, 192 sr.) and freshman redshirt Maurice Henry (6-1, 190). Todd Elder (6-3, 195 jr.) lost his spot to freshman Eric Blades (6-0, 170), perhaps the top recruit by the Wildcats.

The tailback situation is still very much up in the air. Moody rushed for 343 yards a year ago as the starter - just behind Wilson's 367 total at fullback. Graduated John Kendrick had 354 yards in only nine games.

While Ricketts was listed No. 1 on the final spring depth chart, late word from the KSU coaching staff was that Moody was once again first-team, with Tony Jordan (6-3, 210 jr.) the backup. Ricketts, who had the No. 1 job in the spring of 1985 — only to be ruled academically ineligible — was mysteriously absent from the two-deep.

Henry led all rushers in the Alumni game with 48 yards in 11 carries, while Moody and Wilson each had 42. Reggie Demby is still in the picture, while Parrish hopes to get some help from newcomers like former Sooner Clark Brown (a transfer from Riverside City Junior College).

Blades (6-0, 170), from Valdosta, Ga., was rated one of the nation's top prep receivers a year ago. With Dan Hughes (5-10, 175 redshirt junior) and Mark Wentzel (5-9, 175 soph.) at the other two wide receiver spots, whoever is doing the throwing at Kansas State will have some speedy receivers.

Dean, a starter at tight end as a sophomore last year, simply does not fit into the offensive scheme. But it's a good bet he'll be used in short yardage situations.

With Dvorak and Bessert holding down the "quick" side of the line and Goode at center, the 'Cats hope to get solid play from Matt Garver (6-4, 265 jr.) and Dana Dimel (6-4, 280 sr.) on the strong side. Garver probably would have started last year, but he was hampered by injury problems. Herman Proctor (6-5, 295) is a juco transfer who could fit into the picture in the fall.

Dana Dimel (6-4, 280), Sander, Brian Curry (6-2, 250), Damon Sartor (6-4, 235), Ed Williams (6-3, 230) and Chad Faulker (6-2, 235) provide the depth on the offensive line, with the latter three redshirt freshmen who simply

need to get bigger.

Defensively, the Wildcats will be trying to overcome the loss of three top tackles who decided to leave the team with one year to go when the coaching change was made. The best was Les Miller, who started his last seven games as a sophomore two years ago. Also leaving the squad were George Fowler and Curtis Hughes.

That leaves Parrish with an even bigger problem than he had on defense. At the end of spring he had only two seniors on his top defensive unit — a unit having to adjust to a new system.

Another problem in the spring was the absence of senior standout Kevin Humphrey (6-3, 240), who quit the team half way through drills "to get his academics back in order." He is back on the squad and will join workouts in August.

In the new defensive alignment, Humphrey and Jeff Hurd (6-2, 245 sr.) will be at the tackles, flanking middle guard Tim MacDonald (6-3, 234 jr.). Grady Newton (6-1, 223 jr.), injured a year ago, finished the spring as the No. 1 strongside linebacker, with Dwayne Castille (6-0, 225 jr.) on the weakside. Rounding out the linebacking corps are David Wallace (6-1, 214 jr.) and Dewayne Baziel (6-3, 200 fr.). Wallace and Castille started a year ago, while MacDonald made the move from linebacker to middle guard.

Brad Lambert (5-10, 175 jr.) is the only returning starter in the secondary, and he held his No. 1 job. Willie Haliburton (6-1, 190 jr.) entered spring drills as one of the nation's highly regarded juco defensive backs, and impressed enough to earn a starting position at rover back. The other starters going into fall practice will be Robert Easterwood (6-2, 180 soph.) and

Craig Christlieb (5-9, 170 sr.).

The Wildcat kicking game should be in good shape, as punter Troy Faunce (6-2, 180 sr.) averaged 42.3 yards per boot last season — second in the conference and 23rd in the nation. He was a first-team Academic All-American. Mark Porter (6-0, 186) started as the place kicking specialist last year as a freshman, hitting seven of eight field goal attempts. He hopes to get a

lot more opportunities this fall.

The schedule gives Parrish a chance to get some much needed confidence for his squad early in the season. Kansas State opens with Western Illinois and Northern Iowa at home before making road trips to TCU and Oklahoma — those games being sandwiched around an open date. But the 'Cats lost to Northern Iowa last season, 10-6, so the easy names don't necessarily translate into an easy time on the field. After the Big Eight opener at Norman Oct. 4, K-State travels to Texas Tech the following week to finish up its non-league schedule. Parrish then finds himself with a scheduling plus, of sorts. His team will be at home for league dates with Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma State and Colorado. An upset or two against one of those and the new Wildcat boss might maintain his optimistic outlook.

But Kansas State fans know better than to be planning any bowl trips in December. ◆

KANSAS STATE TWO-DEEP

Offense

X — Dan Hughes, 5-10, 175, jr.; Vic Walters, 6-2, 175, jr.

QT — Rockey Dvorak, 6-5, 280, sr.; Chad Faulkner, 6-2, 235, fr.

QG — Bob Bessert, 6-2, 275, sr., Eric Zabelin, 6-3, 232, soph.

C — Rob Goode, 6-3, 230, soph; Wes Morris, 6-3, 235, fr.

SG — Matt Garver, 6-4, 265, jr.; Kenney Taylor, 6-2, 210, fr.

ST—Dana Dimel, 6-4, 280, sr.; Brian Curry, 6-3, 250, soph.

Y — Mark Wentzel, 5-9, 175, soph; Dan Hughes, 5-10, 175, ir.

QB — Randy Williams, 6-2, 206, jr.; John Welch, 6-1, 203, sr.

TB — Todd Moody, 6-2, 200, sr.; Tony Jordan, 6-3, 210, jr.

FB — Maurice Henry, 6-1, 190, fr.; Ray Wilson, 6-2, 206, jr.

Z — Eric Blades, 6-0, 170, fr.; Todd Elder, 6-3, 195, jr.

K — Mark Porter, 6-0, 186, fr.; David Kruger, 5-10, 170, fr.

Defense

SAM — Grady Newton, 6-1, 223, jr.; Scott White, 6-2, 225, jr.

LT — Jeffery Hurd, 6-2, 245, sr.; Ed Williams, 6-3, 230, fr.

MG — Tim MacDonald, 6-3, 234, jr.; Rick Lewis, 6-2, 218, jr.

RT — Roderick Stansell, 6-2, 250, fr.; John Crawford, 6-3, 220, fr.

WILLY — Dwayne Castille, 6-0, 225, jr.; Brent Cotton, 6-3, 205, jr. BACKER — David Wallace, 6-1, 214, jr.;

Dan Goldner, 6-3, 220, jr.

MIKE — Dewayne Baziel, 6-3, 200, fr.; Matt

Wallerstedt, 5-11, 217, jr. **WC** — Brad Lambert, 5-10, 175, jr.; Rick

Miller, 5-11, 195, sr.

ROVER — Willie Halliburton, 6-1, 190, jr.;

Jeff Lowe, 6-0, 185, fr. **FS** — Robert Eastwood, 6-3, 180, soph;

David Poague, 6-1, 190, jr. **SC** — Craig Christlieb, 5-9, 170, sr.; David Compton, 5-11, 170, fr.

P — Troy Faunce, 6-2, 180, sr.

MISSOUR

Woody Widenhofer

Herbert Johnson

TIGERS CAN CHANGE THEIR **STRIPES BEHIND** YOUNGSTERS



erhaps it won't help much, but the Pittsburgh Steelers and Arizona Outlaws aren't exactly tearing pro football up, Woody.

Robert "Woody" Widenhofer enjoyed success few football coaches have known when he served as an assistant for the Steelers in their glory years (1973-83). When the 1965 Missouri grad decided to give head coaching a try, his first venture was with the Oklahoma Outlaws - who soon became the Arizona Outlaws.

But the Outlaws were not Steelers. Widenhofer suffered through a couple of lean years in the infant United States Football League. And he was more than happy to accept the head coaching position at his college alma mater when Warren Powers was run out of Columbia after the 1984 season.

Woody hasn't been chased out of Missouri...yet. After all, he's only had one season to try to turn Tiger fortunes around. But Powers' final season of 3-7-1 looks pretty impressive when compared to Widenhofer's maiden journey into the world of Big Eight coaching.

One and 10. And the one was a 28-27 squeaker over Iowa State. Several of the 10 were downright embarrassing: Northwestern 27, Missouri 23. Indiana 36, Missouri 17. California 39, Missouri 32. Colorado 38, Missouri 7. Oklahoma 51, Missouri 6. Kansas 34, Missouri 20.

Now the Tigers must rebuild without experienced quarterbacks, with an offensive line that boasts of John Clay and a few holes and with a backfield that is still searching for a fullback.

And Widenhofer, who coached linebackers at Pittsburgh along with his duties as defensive coordinator (remember the Steel Curtain?) must do something about a defense which was about as tough to move against as Cheesecloth Curtain. Mizzou was touched for 223 yards per game rushing, 193 per game passing and a Big Eight worst 416.5 per game total. That ranked the Bengals right at 89th in the NCAA in total defense.

There weren't any "Mean Joe's" on the MU defense last year. There weren't many "Mean" anythings. There was a lot of Green...as in young, inexperienced, slow, etc.

Widenhofer is not one to accept that type of defensive performance. Missouri worked long and hard in the spring to get meaner and less

"greener." And the work seemed to pay off.

But it's difficult to evaluate a defense which plays day after day against an offense without a bonafide fullback, without a proven or even improvin' quarterback and without Tony Van-Zant.

Missouri might be much better on defense in 1986. But the Tigers might still have trouble clawing their way out of the Big Conference second division.

Marlon Adler and Warren Seitz are gone. Graduated. Finally out of eligibility. And neither reached the heights predicted for them when they were sophomores. Missouri certainly failed to reach the heights predicted for it last fall. One and 10. Adler on the bench much of the last part of the season. Seitz moved to split end. Back to quarterback. Back to split end.

Still, the Tigers ranked second in the Big Eight in passing behind Kansas with 201.2 yards per game. And they were fourth in total offense (360.5 yards per game). With little Darrell Wallace (5-foot-7, 165 pounds) rushing for over 1,000 yards, and with wide receiver Herbert Johnson catching 49 passes for 806 yards, MU found scoring points was almost as easy as giving them up.

Now Widenhofer is faced with the problem of developing a quarterback who can continue putting points on the board. That's what Ronnie Cameron is supposed to do. Except that Ronnie Cameron, *Parade* All-America and All-World his senior year at East St. Louis High, has not been healthy enough since becoming a Tiger to create much optimism that the offense

will explode in 1986.

Instead, MU fans are waiting on another *Parade* All-American rookie to turn the program around. VanZant, rated the nation's top prep running back a year ago at Hazelwood Central, is expected to take the Big Eight by storm this fall. If he is academically eligible. And if he can take the tailback job away from Wallace.

If. That seems to be the key word in Columbia. Again. If Cameron comes through and stays healthy at quarterback. If VanZant is eligible and as good as advertised (or even half as good). If the Tigers find a fullback. And a center. And a couple of cornerbacks. And some help up front on offense for Clay and on defense for Dick Chapura. If sophomore linebackers Terry Walker and Steve Vandegrift are as good or better than they were as freshmen starters a year ago.

Get the picture?

And even "if" Widenhofer gets positive answers on most of those "if's," the Tigers may find themselves facing a schedule that will pre-

clude any post-season appearance.

After opening against Utah State in Columbia, Mizzou faces Texas and Indiana on Tiger turf, then goes to Syracuse. The Bengals take on three of the four top Big Eight contenders on the road, meeting Nebraska, Oklahoma and Oklahoma State on unfriendly fields. Only Colorado comes to Faurot Field.

If Missouri wants to make a big comeback in 1986, it will not be easy. The Tigers may find



Safety Erik McMillan

MISSOURI TIGERS

HEAD COACH: Woody Widenhofer, 2nd season (1-10 overall, 1-6 in the Big Eight).

1985 RECORD: 1 win, 10 losses (1-6 in the Big Eight, tied for seventh place). **OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING:** (10) Victor Moore, 5-11, 171 jr. WR; Jeff Rigman, 6-2, 266 soph G; Dal Lockwood, 6-6, 270 sr. C; John Clay, 6-5, 270 sr. T; Phil Pettey, 6-4, 270 sr. G; Joe Close, 6-4, 238 sr. TE; Michael Scott, 6-5, 270 sr. FB; Darrell Wallace, 5-7, 167 jr. RB; Herbert Johnson, 5-11, 183 sr. WR; Tom Whelihan, 5-10, 188 jr. K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (10) Dick Chapura, 6-3, 260 sr. E; Darryl Darling, 6-2, 239 soph NT; Bo Sherrill, 6-2, 232 sr. LB; Mike Vestweber, 6-2, 220 sr. LB; Terry Walker, 6-1, 205 soph LB; Steve Vandegrift, 6-4, 237 soph LB; Cordell McKinney, 5-11, 187 soph CB; Erik McMillan, 6-2, 192 jr. SS; Stan Long, 6-0, 182 soph FS; Tom Whelihan, 5-10, 188 jr. P.

it tough to be bad enough to finish 1-10 again. But they will find it much tougher to finish 6-5.

Any hopes of a shocking turnabout have to start with the defense.

The fewest any of 11 foes last year scored against Missouri was 20 by Kansas State. In a 20-17 Wildcat win. And that wasn't a K-State bowl edition. That was a typical 1-10 Kansas State team.

Chapura is the catalyst around whom the defense can be improved. The 6-3, 273 senior finally found a home at end last year after playing yo-yo between offense and defense his first two years. Chapura had 98 tackles (second best on the team) in 1985, including a team-high seven quarterback sacks.

But the interior line gets awfully young after Chapura. The other end spot was being held by Midwest City, Okla., sophomore Kevin Fair (6-3, 229) at the end of spring drills. Jeff Cross and Marland Beaudean (injured in the spring) were in the hunt. Darryl Darling (6-2, 250) got his baptism under fire a year ago as a freshman, but has beefed up enough to improve the outlook at nose tackle. Redshirt freshman Lee Johnson (6-1, 249) is also a possibility there.

Linebacking should be a Tiger plus. Walker had an incredible game against Oklahoma last fall, and the 6-0, 211-pounder should be even better in 1986. Vandegrift plays on Walker's right shoulder outside, and he's been heralded as a great college prospect. At 6-5, 243 he may be just that.

The other side includes veteran Gary Justis (6-2, 225), a senior who started early in 1985, was injured and received a hardship ruling for another year. The left inside backer is slated to be Mike Vestweber (6-2, 224 senior), although Bo Sherrill (6-3, 234) was injured in the spring and could be a factor in the fall. Juco transfer Maurice Caracter has 4.5 speed and performed well in the spring, and Darren MacDonald is coming out of redshirt mothballs to make his bid for playing time.

Missouri is pushing strong safety Erik McMillan for all-star honors, and the 6-2, 191 junior played well last year after being moved from end. He's the son of former pro star Ernie McMillan, and he used his 4.28 speed to lead the Bengals in tackles last year with 109. McMillan has been moved from free safety to strong safety, allowing heralded sophomore Stan Long (6-0, 175) to step in at free safety.

The cornerback spots should be much improved - unless the Tigers again have injury problems there. Pat Ray (5-10, 175) was slated to start at one corner last year, but missed the entire campaign with a severe hamstring pull. He made it through the spring in one piece. Kenny King, another sophomore, backs him on the left side.

Rodney Shepard (5-9, 181) led in a wideopen battle at right corner. Jesse Holmes is also in the picture there, with Cameron Riley providing depth in the secondary. Cordell McKinney, who started five games at corner last year, suffered a severe knee injury in the first practice this past spring and will not return to action until after this fall.

Offensively, there is little doubt the Tigers

will be a better rushing team. Ronnie Cameron (6-1, 191) is a winner. He did nothing but win in high school. He played some at split end last fall at MU, but was quickly moved back behind center. He should give the Tigers the ability to run all the option offense they want.

But he was inconsistent in the spring. In one Black-Gold scrimmage he rushed for 120 yards on only 12 carries and completed six of 12 passes. In the other major scrimmage Cameron rushed for 19 yards on seven carries and completed only 11 of 24 passes for 178 yards. He was intercepted twice.

The biggest problem Cameron has had is his own arm. An intramuscular inflammation just above the elbow has caused him all kinds of problems. "It's mind over matter," Cameron said after his impressive showing in Kansas City's Arrowhead Stadium last spring, "It still hurts. I didn't feel too good about it, but it's still going to hurt. I'll just play with it and not worry about the results.

Redshirt freshman Brent Cook (Moore, Okla.) tried to put some pressure on Cameron in the spring, but he had his problems with inconsistency as well. Cook was a prep sensation as a junior, was injured the third game of his senior year and has not played in a game since. He has a live arm, but not the mobility Cameron possesses.

And Widenhofer likes the idea of having an option quarterback like Cameron who can put pressure on defenses as a runner, passer or pitch man. Jeff Henningsen and Alex Fedak were also still in the running at QB when spring drills concluded.

Wallace won the starting tailback job at MU in the spring of 1985 and went on to rush for 1,120 yards in the fall - a figure that went almost unnoticed in the face of the 1-10 record and great seasons by Doug DuBose of Nebraska and Thurman Thomas of OSU.

A broken wrist kept Wallace from competing the final part of spring drills, but he is still regarded as the No. 1 running back for the Tigers. At least until VanZant gets his test scores in and brings his impressive (football) credentials to camp in August.

If VanZant is not eligible, the Tigers will have Wallace and little else. The running back position was bolstered, however, by the return of Ron Floyd. This 5-8, 176-pounder was moved from offense to defense, then back to offense this spring. After starting the last six games of the 1985 season at cornerback, Floyd looked impressive at tailback when Wallace went to the sidelines. And junior Vernon Boyd had a great scrimmage in Columbia with 132 yards in 14 tries last April. Jon Redd (5-9, 205), like Boyd a senior, is also a possibility at running back.

Widenhofer got used to all-star fullback performances while he was with Pittsburgh. He's had nothing resembling an all-star at Columbia, and things don't look like they'll improve greatly this year.

Ed Esson (5-11, 236) was in the No. 1 spot most of the spring, but when he was sidelined by asthma Tommie Stowers (6-3, 200 redshirt freshman) performed well. Michael Scott (6-5,

270), who was moved from defensive end to fullback last year, went back to the line and was looking good at center until he tore knee ligaments.

Chris Jensen is another possibility at fullback, where the Tigers would like to get something more than blocking.

Missouri had all kinds of problems at wide receiver last fall. The end result this year could

be added depth.

Herbert "June Bug" Johnson was an All-Big Eight performer in 1985, and the 5-11, 183 senior gives Missouri a deep threat who should really help the young quarterbacks. Victor Moore (5-11, 181) started much of last year at split end (Johnson is a flanker), but Moore has had some real problems with what was at first not thought to be a serious injury. His absence allowed juco transfer Robert Delpino (6-0, 194) to show his speed and catching ability, and he responded with four receptions for 144 yards and a touchdown in one scrimmage. Delpino was a tight end at Dodge City J.C., so he can block.

Patrick Overshown (5-11, 161) came to Mizzou with a lot of fanfare after a great prep career in Texas, but was injured this spring. He could also be a big factor at wide receiver, as could Craig Lammers (5-9, 165) and Kevin Hagens (5-8, 150), the latter one of four transfers from the now defunct Drake program.

Another of those Drake transfers is tight end Brent Peterson (6-4, 224), and he has made a strong bid to take the tight end job away from Joe Close (6-5, 235), a returning starter.

Clay, of course, is the star along the offensive front for Missouri. The 6-5, 270 senior is an All-American candidate, and makes it tough for anyone trying to stop the right side of the Tiger line. Phil Pettey (6-4, 274) is another senior who started alongside Clay last year at guard. But he missed the spring with an injury.

Ted Romney (6-4, 271) and Jeff Rigman (6-2, 268) were starting on the left side, but Chris Lowe (6-2, 274 soph) and Mike Ploesser are also pushing for playing time there. Romney is another of the Drake transfers. The fourth is

cornerback Jessie Holmes.

Center was a real problem for Missouri last year, and it is still an area of concern for Widenhofer. Dal Lockwood is a 6-6, 261 senior who is not the kind of athlete the MU coaches would like to have at that position. But he's stayed healthy and held off all challenges.

Scott is the top candidate for Lockwood's spring job — if the former end-fullback rehabilitates his knee. Curtis Wilson (6-3, 255) is a juco transfer from Northeastern (Oklahoma) A&M, and he was picking up the system until

injured this spring.

Even though Mizzou will be without Adler's punting for the first time in four years, the kicking game should be strong. Tom Whelihan booted 16 field goals last year — including a 54-yarder. He already holds most of the Tiger school records, and he's got two years remaining. Whelihan is also slated to handle punting chores. He averaged 45 yards per kick when doing the punting the last part of his freshman year. •

MISSOURI TWO-DEEP

Offense

WR — Victor Moore, 5-11, 181, jr.; Robert Delpino, 6-0, 194, jr.; Patrick Overshown, 5-11, 161, soph.

LT — Ted Romney, 6-4, 271, sr.; Mike

Ploesser, 6-6, 273, soph.

LG — Jeff Rigman, 6-2, 268, jr.; Chris Lowe, 6-2, 274, soph.

C — Dal Lockwood, 6-6, 261, sr.; Curtis Wilson, 6-3, 255, jr.; Michael Scott, 6-5, 270, sr.

RG — Phil Pettey, 6-4, 274, sr.; Brian Ponzer, 6-1, 236, fr.

RT — John Clay, 6-5, 270, sr.; Mike Ploesser, 6-6, 273, soph.

TE — Joe Close, 6-5, 235, sr.; Brent Peterson, 6-4, 224, sr.

QB — Ronnie Cameron, 6-1, 191, soph; Brent Cook, 6-2, 189, fr.

FB — Ed Esson, 5-11, 236, sr.; Tommy Stowers, 6-3, 200, fr.; Chris Jensen, 6-2, 232, sonh

RB — Darrell Wallace, 5-7, 162, jr.; Vernon Boyd, 5-9, 183, sr.; Jon Redd, 5-9, 205, sr.

WR — Herbert Johnson, 5-11, 183, sr.; Craig Lammers, 5-9, 165, soph; Kevin Hagens, 5-8, 150, fr.

K — Tom Whelihan, 5-10, 188, jr.; 5-10, 189,

Defense
LE — Dick Chapura, 6-3, 273, sr.; Marland
Beaudean, 6-5, 254, jr.

NT — Darryl Darling, 6-2, 250, soph; Lee Johnson, 6-1, 249, fr.

RE — Kevin Fair, 6-3, 229, soph; Jeff Cross, 6-4, 241, jr.

OLB — Gary Justis, 6-2, 225, sr.; Maurice Caracter, 6-1, 209, jr.

ILB — Terry Walker, 6-0, 211, soph; Darren McDonald, 6-1, 203, fr.

ILB — Mike Vestweber, 6-2, 224, sr.; Cory Cathcart, 6-1, 228, sr.

OLB — Steve Vandegrift, 6-5, 243, soph; Bo Sherrill, 6-3, 234, sr.

LC — Pat Ray, 5-10, 175, soph; Kenny King, 5-11, 183, soph.

SS — Erik McMillan, 6-2, 191, jr.; Cameron Riley, 6-1, 194, sr.

WS - Stan Long, 6-0, 175, soph.

RC — Rodney Shepard, 5-9, 181, jr.; Jesse Holmes, 5-10, 170, fr.

P — Tom Whelihan, 5-10, 188, jr.; Doug Slaughter, 6-4, 215, jr.

OWBOYS

Pat Jones





Mark Moore



he year was 1972, the coach was Dave Smith and the big news was that Oklahoma State posted a winning football season. Was it a fluke, or the start of something big in Stillwater?

Smith wasn't around in 1973 to find out. But Jim Stanley inherited enough athletes that his first OSU squad went 5-4-2 - the first time since 1959 that Oklahoma State had put together back-to-back winning seasons.

Stanley then guided O-State to a 7-5 record and the Fiesta Bowl in 1974, then 7-4 the following season and 9-3 and a share of the Big Eight championship in 1976.

The newest member of the conference had wiped out its image as a doormat. But Cowboy fans were hungry for more. They wanted a trip to the Orange Bowl. A national title. A winning streak against Oklahoma after the 31-24 triumph in 1976.

It wasn't meant to be.

In 1977 the Pokes were 4-3 at mid-season and lost their last four in a row to finish 4-7. Oklahoma State was back on the rollercoaster. Stanley left after a 3-8 campaign in 1978. Jimmy Johnson alternated winning and losing seasons from 1979 through 1982.

The jury was still out on OSU's bid for re-

spect in college football.

Evidence the past three seasons would indicate the respect is there, as well as the beginning of some real football tradition. But the Pokes need to beware in 1986.

The offensive talent and the schedule would indicate that the Cowboys should be on line for their sixth straight first-division finish in the Big Eight, their fourth straight winning season and a fourth consecutive bowl bid.

But there are also some reasons to be a bit apprehensive. The Pokes were wiped out up front on defense by graduation, and if spring scrimmages are any indication the offense this fall will have to score a lot of points.

It's the kind of a challenge that Pat Jones

should enjoy.

Jones, who long ago learned to fight as an underdog, never looked back three years ago when he took over the head coaching job from Johnson and immediately led the Cowboys to their greatest season in the modern era. The 10-2 campaign included a Gator Bowl win over South Carolina and losses only to Nebraska and Oklahoma in games that went right down to

Oklahoma State followed that up last year with eight more wins and another Gator Bowl trip, although the season was tainted somewhat by consecutive losses at the end to Iowa State, Oklahoma and Florida State.

Still, Jones and his staff will open the 1986 campaign with a team full of players who have known nothing but winning. Only a few redshirt seniors remain from the last losing team at OSU (4-5-2 in 1982). And they are convinced, along with the youngsters, that OSU is only a break or two away from making its breakthrough into the Big Eight title room.

Will that breakthrough come this year?

It will be tough. Not only did Jones lose all but one of his starters on the defensive line and at linebacker on defense, he waived goodbye to all but one of his offensive line starters of a year ago. There was a lot of rebuilding done this spring.

After three consecutive bowl trips and a 25-10-1 ledger during the Leslie O'Neal era, the Cowboys find themselves at a crossroads enter-

ing the 1986 football season.

Led by O'Neal on defense and record-setting tailback Thurman Thomas on offense, Oklahoma State made a bold step forward, challenging Nebraska and Oklahoma for the Big Eight Conference championship the past two years. The Pokes are hopeful that that challenge can produce a Big Eight title this season.

In order to achieve that end, however, a bigtime replacement for a big-time All-American will have to be found. Though one has yet to surface, Cowboy coach Pat Jones was encour-

aged by what he saw in spring drills.

"We're going to be so young across the defensive front seven," Jones lamented. "We had a couple of linemen we lost to injuries (this spring), but we played a lot of kids. We're still pretty unsettled, but we still got accomplished what we needed to.

"If we can hold people long enough to score some points, I think we'll be in good shape."

Any excitement generated about keeping the opposition out of the end zone begins with a quick glance at the Poke secondary, where "big-time" defender Mark Moore returns for his final season. Moore, a *Sporting News* and Associated Press All-American in 1985, recorded seven interceptions last season to raise his career oskie mark to 14 — three of which have been returned for touchdowns. In addition, the 6-foot, 194-pound Moore's penchant for registering bone-crushing tackles gives the Pokes one of the most feared defenders in the nation.

"As far as a secondary player, I think he's one of the biggest impact players I've ever been around," said Jones. "He's a fearless guy who's got great working habits. He's a very aggressive kid who's got a unique personality. He'll play good anywhere we put him."

Jones indicated the surprise development of redshirt sophomore free safety Donnie Brown may mean Moore will find himself at left cor-

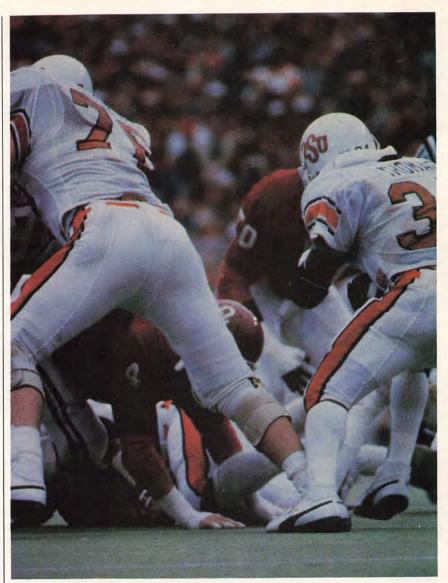
nerback when fall drills begin.

"He had a great spring at free safety," Jones said of Brown. "He was one of the surprises of spring drills. His development could allow us to go back and play Mark at corner. That would really create good depth for us at that (cornerback) position."

Patroling the right corner position will be versatile sophomore Melvin Gilliam, who Jones said may suffer some negative effects of playing basketball during the off season.

"Strength-wise it didn't help him to play basketball," Jones said. "He's a highly intelligent youngster who has big-play ability, though."

Gilliam was also the focal point of an experiment Jones termed a partial success. "He can't



Tailback Thurman Thomas

OKLAHOMA STATE COWBOYS

HEAD COACH: Pat Jones, 3rd season (18-6 overall, 9-5 in Big Eight). **1985 RECORD:** 8 wins, 4 losses, including loss in Gator Bowl (4-3 in Big Eight, tied for third).

OFFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (7) Doug Meacham, 6-3, 250 jr. G; J.R. Dillard, 6-4, 245 jr. TE; Bobby Riley, 5-9, 168 sr. FL; Ronnie Williams, 6-4, 215 jr. QB; Thurman Thomas, 5-11, 191 jr. TB; Will Timmons, 6-0, 224 sr. FB; Joey O'Donnell. 6-0, 204 soph K.

DEFENSIVE STARTERS RETURNING: (6) Ricky Shaw, 6-4, 220 jr. E; Demise Williams, 6-2, 214 sr. CB; Mark Moore, 6-0, 194 sr. FS; Mike Hudson, 6-0, 205 sr. SS; Melvin Gilliam, 6-2, 170 soph CB; Rich Thompson, 6-4, 215 jr. P.



Ronnie Williams

throw the football well enough to play quarterback, but you can run some option with him. He'll play there if it's a situation where Ronnie (Williams) goes down and we're not satisfied with the play of our second string quarterback."

Strong safety Mike Hudson missed spring drills due to a wrist injury suffered in the Gator Bowl, but is expected to retain his starting position when the season begins. Adding depth in the secondary will be junior Jerry Deckard, sophomore Milton Cockrell and seniors Demise Williams and Wendell Yancy.

Elsewhere, Jones said great strides were made in seeking replacements for O'Neal and several other defenders lost to graduation.

Any talk of replacing those starters begins with 6-4, 220-pound eagle end Ricky Shaw, the

lone returning down lineman from last year's squad. Shaw will be joined in the up position by junior Ron Williams (no relation to Ronnie).

Injuries to 6-2, 240-pound senior letterman Leonard Jackson (hand tendon); 6-4, 263 freshman David Grider (bone chip); and 6-4, Luper (arthroscopic 240-pound Kevin surgery), slowed the Cowboys' efforts to find replacements, but served as a springboard for a trio of unknowns to rise out of obscurity.

The most impressive of those was 6-2, 245pound sophomore Marcus Jones, who finished spring drills as the heir apparent to the job of departed John Washington. Also impressing were freshman David Bailey (6-4, 226), who won the starting left tackle job, and 6-2, 250pound juco transfer Jeff Patterson.

At linebacker, the Cowboys will depend on a quartet with youth and experience in junior Robert Nunn, sophomore Chris Peagram, and freshmen Heath Bobo and Vernon Victor.

Offensively, the development of depth at quarterback, wideout and running back highlights what OSU coaches feel may be the best offensive unit the Cowboys have ever fielded.

Much of that optimism, of course, is spurred on by the return of Thomas, Ronnie Williams and wideouts Bobby Riley and Hart Lee Dykes.

"Skill position wise, we're better off than any time since I've been here," Jones said. "Thurman had more contact during spring drills than we let on, but we did hold him out of the scrimmages. He's such a well-conditioned athlete that he wanted to play more. We just didn't want to push our luck.

"I think he's the best running back I've been around. He's a lot more elusive than Ernest (Anderson, former OSU back). He's a legitimate Heisman contender.'

One of the Cowboys' priorities during spring was to find a backup for their franchise back, and they didn't have to look far. Sophomores Mitch Nash (5-10, 186) and Curtis Luper (6-0, 194) performed well enough to earn back-

"Curtis Luper and Mitch Nash can play for anybody," Jones said. "Getting the repetition during scrimmages really helped them im-

Despite the experiment of Gilliam behind center, Jones said Williams is the most versatile quarterback the Cowboys have had.

"Ronnie's injury last year eliminated our option game. We told him not to run with the ball unless he had to. (Despite the injury) he still threw for a thousand yards. He had an excellent spring and he's now becoming more of a passer than a thrower. If Ronnie has a good year, we're in good shape."

The possibility of that good year becoming a reality was enhanced by the emergence of Dykes (6-4, 206), and sophomore Kevin Simien (6-4, 202) to complement senior flanker Bobby Riley.

"Dykes came into his own in spring drills," said Jones. "He didn't miss a practice. He really grew up a lot. When you take a guy of Hart Lee's size and ability and put it with Riley's, that gives us two big-time receivers.

"What hurt us at the end of the year last season was when we lost Bobby and Hart was hurt. Bobby is an all-league player."

Simien has been timed as the fastest player on the OSU squad and is expected to give the Pokes depth at that position.

Junior J.R. Dillard (6-4, 245) returns at tight end, backed by 6-3, 235-pound Drake transfer Brian Keith.

Returning junior Doug Meacham (6-3, 250) leads the parade of players in the offensive trenches. Meacham will be joined by 6-5, 255-pound sophomore Mike Wolfe at left tackle; 6-5, 252-pound Chris Stanley at left guard; 6-2, 248-pounder Tony Wilkins at center and 6-3, 297-pound Bryan Woodard at right tackle.

The Pokes are hoping Brad Dennis can go through the entire '86 campaign in good health. The highly-touted Californian had been counted on to take care of the place kicking last fall, but injured his ankle before the season opener. Joey O'Donnell took over the job and kicked six of 10 field goals before Dennis came on at the end of the year. Punter Rich Thompson averaged 40.7 yards a kick as a sophomore, and his strong leg should make him one of the Big Eight's best this fall.

Despite the great season by Thomas in 1985 (he led the league and was fourth in the nation in rushing with 1,553 yards in 302 carries), O-State ranked only fourth in the Big Eight in rushing with 174.9 yards per game — far behind Nebraska, OU and Colorado. The Cowboys were also fourth in the conference in passing offense (152.5), but fifth in total offense (327.4).

Those figures should improve in 1986. Williams has a year as a starter under his belt, and with added punch at both running back and wide receiver the junior from Texas has every reason to feel confident he'll be among the league's most effective quarterbacks. Williams passed for 1,506 yards a year ago, but had 11 interceptions against only six touchdown passes. He needs to improve those figures.

Riley (5-9, 168, senior) led the Pokes in receiving with 33 catches for 610 yards, but he should get plenty of help from Dykes, Dillard,

The schedule seems to favor the young OSU defense, which will need some time to grow up and gain confidence. The Cowboys open their season at Southwestern Louisiana Sept. 6, then travel to Tulsa the following week. Their first home date will be against Southwest Conference foe Houston — one of the country's unpredictable teams. The final tuneup (followed by an open date) before back-to-back road dates at Nebraska and Oklahoma will be a Lewis Field contest against Illinois State.

The rest of the schedule definitely favors the Jones boys. Kansas and Colorado come to Stillwater Oct. 18 and 25, with a road trip to Kansas State and then home games with Missouri and Iowa State to finish up.

And another bowl game?

You can almost make book on it. Oklahoma State has reached the point where even a rebuilding year should produce eight or nine victories.

OKLAHOMA STATE TWO-DEEP

Offense

SE — Hart Lee Dykes, 6-4, 206, soph; Kenneth Brown, 6-5, 220, sr.

LT — Mike Wolfe, 6-5, 255, soph; Kelly Hopkins. 6-5, 270, sr.

LG — Chris Stanley, 6-5, 252, soph; Matt Kolb, 6-5, 250, soph.

C— Tony Wilkins, 6-2, 248, sr.; Mike Zentic, 6-3, 255, jr.

RG — Doug Meacham, 6-3, 250, jr.; Brent Davis, 6-4, 230, fr.

RT — Bryan Woodard, 6-3, 297, soph; Jason Kidder, 6-3, 272, soph.

TE — J.R. Dillard, 6-4, 245, jr.; Brian Keith, 6-3, 235, jr.

QB — Ronnie Williams, 6-4, 215, jr.; Rusty Rankin, 6-2, 193, jr.

Rankin, 6-2, 193, jr. **FB** — Will Timmons, 6-0, 224, sr.; Garrett Limbrick, 6-3, 218, soph.

TB — Thurman Thomas, 5-11, 191, jr.; Curtis Luper, 6-0, 194, soph or Mitch Nash, 5-10, 186, soph.

K — Brad Dennis, 5-7, 140, soph; Joey O'Donnell, 6-0, 204, soph.

Defense

EE — Ricky Shaw, 6-4, 220, jr.; Greg McCalister, 6-1, 235, soph.

LT — David Bailey, 6-4, 226, fr.; Jeff Patterson, 6-2, 250, jr. or David Grider, 6-4, 263, fr.

NG — Marcus Jones, 6-2, 245, soph; Danny Wilson, 6-3, 246, fr.

RT—Leonard Jackson, 6-2, 240, sr.; Kevin Luper, 6-4, 240, fr. or Vance Vice, 6-5, 235, fr.

DE — Ron Williams, 6-3, 216, jr.; Machoe Moore, 6-4, 205, fr.

ELB — Robert Nunn, 6-3, 230, jr.; Vernon Victor, 6-2, 205, fr.; Kenneth Cumby, 5-11, 210. ir.

MLB — Chris Peagram, 6-1, 200, soph. or Heath Bobo, 5-11, 215, fr.; Bouncer Schiro, 6-1, 235, sr. or Thomas Caines, 6-3, 230, jr.

LC — Demise Williams, 6-2, 214, sr.; Harold Green, 6-1, 195, soph.

FS — Mark Moore, 6-0, 194, sr.; Donnie Brown, 5-9, 183, soph

SS — Mike Hudson, 6-0, 205, sr.; Jerry Deckard, 6-2, 206, jr.

RC — Melvin Gilliam, 6-2, 170, soph; Milton Cockrell, 5-9, 181, soph.

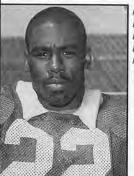
P — Rich Thompson, 6-4, 215, jr.; Cary Cooper, 5-10, 155, jr.



Tight End Keith Jackson OKLAHOMA

Wide Receiver Hart Lee Dykes OKLAHOMA STATE



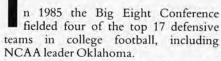


Running Back Doug DuBose NEBRASKA

Running Back Thurman Thomas OKLAHOMA STATE







Judging by the stars returning to the league in 1986, defense should once again be well represented in the Big Eight.

Half a dozen members of the 1985 All-Big Eight defensive squad are back to create their own brand of terror this fall. And there are another dozen returning who earned second-team honors on either the Associated Press or UPI all-league squads.

Defense, as usual, will be a dominant force in the Big Eight.

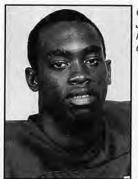
Last fall Oklahoma's Tony Casillas won the Lombardi Award as the nation's top lineman. Oklahoma State's Leslie O'Neal was a finalist for that honor. Both were two-time All-Americans. The Sooners' Kevin Murphy was the Defensive Player of the Year in the Big Eight as a junior in 1983, missed the 1984 season with an injury and earned all-conference honors for the third time last fall. He, like Casillas and O'Neal, will be playing in the pro ranks this season.

And yet the top defensive player in the Big Eight last fall was not Casillas. And it was not O'Neal nor Murphy. The Defensive Player of the Year for 1985 was OU's Brian Bosworth, who also claimed the first ever Butkus Award as the nation's top linebacker.

Bosworth was only a sophomore last year. And he leads that strong contingent of defensive standouts who figure to give the Big Eight two — perhaps even three — contenders for top 10 national finishes.

The league is loaded once again with linebackers and defensive backs. That combination should make Oklahoma, Nebraska and Colorado good bets to rank among the best defensive teams in the country once again. Those three finished first, sixth and 17th last year. Oklahoma State was 14th in the nation, but suffered huge losses on defense and struggled in that area this spring.

Bosworth and Nebraska's Marc Munford were both all-league performers a



Quarterback Jamelle Holieway OKLAHOMA

year ago. Willie Pless of Kansas was the third, and he's graduated. But Colorado's Barry Remington and Iowa State's Jeff Braswell were second-teamers, and they return, as do standouts like Dante Jones and Paul Migliazzo at OU, Kevin Parsons at Nebraska, Dennis Gibson at Iowa State, Rick Bredesen of Kansas and Missouri's sophomore duo of Terry Walker and Steve Vandegrift.

Defensive secondaries around the league will be just as well stocked with quality performers.

Among those back in '86 are all-league honorees Mark Moore and Mike Hudson of Oklahoma State and Colorado's Mickey Pruitt. Only Moore is counted on as a sure-fire repeat, however, as defensive backs like Sonny Brown and Ricky Dixon of Oklahoma, Brian Washington and Brian Davis of Nebraska, Erik McMillan and Stan Long of Missouri, Melvin Gilliam of OSU, Rodney Rogers of Colorado, Terrence Anthony of Iowa State



and Wayne Ziegler of Kansas are all all-star quality.

The pre-season All-Big Eight defense for the 1986 campaign includes Bosworth, Munford and Remington at linebacker, while Moore and Pruitt join Sooners Brown and Dixon in the secondary. Up front are newcomers Danny Noonan and Chris Spachman of Nebraska and Steve Bryan of OU, along with two-time all-star Darrell Reed of the Sooners.

Before you get the impression that the conference is going to be void of offensive excitement, however, consider the fact that the Big Eight will feature two of the top candidates for the Heisman Trophy (and that's not counting Bosworth, who is already getting some support despite being a defensive player).

Oklahoma State's Thurman Thomas and Nebraska's Doug DuBose have been honored as all-conference running backs the past two years, and both figure to be in the Heisman picture this fall. Thomas, in fact, was mentioned strongly early last season as a sophomore before tailing off somewhat the final few games.

Those aren't the only All-American candidates on the pre-season All-Big Eight offense. Oklahoma tight end Keith Jackson was a second-teamer last year as a sophomore, and is even bigger and more physical than he was in 1985. Missouri tackle John Clay was also a second-team selection last fall, even though playing on a 1-10 team. And Oklahoma's guard duo of Mark Hutson and Anthony Phillips should be up there on some of the all-star lists at the end of the season.

All of those players were on the 1985 All-Big Eight team. So was OU quarterback Jamelle Holieway, the first freshman in league history to be voted the top signal

Other members of the pre-season offensive delegation include Colorado's Eric Coyle at center, Oklahoma State's Hart Lee Dykes in a close call over Missouri's 1985 all-conference wide receiver Herbert "June Bug" Johnson, Nebraska's Tom Welter at the other tackle and Sooner fullback Lydell Carr.

Both of the 1985 all-star kickers return to conference action, and punter Barry Helton of Colorado was an All-American a year ago. Nebraska's Dale Klein tied an NCAA record with seven straight field goals and is back this fall looking for even more honors.

Even the most conservative of Big Eight followers would have to rate this as one of the most talented groups ever to come along in a league which has consistently produced top professional players.

But those players may be strung out in the next three pro drafts. Half of the 24 top pre-season picks are seniors. Nine others are juniors, and three are only sophomores

Oklahoma, as might be expected, led in first-team picks with 10, followed by Nebraska with six, Colorado four, OSU three and Missouri one. On the second team the Huskers had six, Missouri five, OU four, Kansas three, Colorado and Kansas State two each and Iowa State and Oklahoma State one apiece.

The Big Eight has always been considered a "running" league, with an emphasis on the ground game by most conference teams. That's the reason there are three running backs and only one wide receiver on the first team. Fittingly, the first-team quarterback pick is also a runner, not a passer.

But the conference has sent some great wide receivers to the pro ranks in the past decade or so, and that trend appears set to continue for a few more years.

Johnson, a 5-foot-11, 183-pounder,

won all-league honors from UPI a year ago when he caught 49 passes for 806 yards and four touchdowns. Richard Estelle of Kansas was the AP pick, but he's graduated. Johnson was busier than expected due to injuries to other Tiger receivers. And he had two veteran quarterbacks throwing to him in Marlon Adler and Warren Seitz.

But the Mizzou senior may have trouble matching his 1985 exploits this fall. Adler and Seitz are gone, the Tigers have more depth at the wide-outs and new quarterback Ronnie Cameron is more of a runner

than a passer.

Dykes is not even the receiver Oklahoma State is pushing for all-star honors. The Pokes are talking more about senior Bobby Riley, a 5-9, 168 flyer who caught 33 passes for 610 yards in 1985. And Riley should have another big year for OSU. But Dykes demonstrated in a Gator Bowl loss to Florida State that he is just as good as advertised when coming out of Bay City, Texas, as that state's top athlete a year ago. His size and great hands should translate into a big year - if he stays healthy.

Other possibles for that all-league spot at wide receiver include Nebraska's Von Sheppard (who had a sensational 31.2 average per catch), Willie Vaughn of Kansas, Jo Jo Collins of Colorado (if the Buffs can get someone to throw the ball to him) and Oklahoma's Derrick Sheppard and Lee

There will be two previous winners of of All-Big Eight honors at tight end. Jon Embree (6-2, 225) of Colorado was sensational as a sophomore in 1984, when the Buffs were in love with the pass. Last year, however, CU went to the wishbone and forgot how to throw the ball. Embree's stats suffered, and OU sophomore Jackson had an amazing season as a receiver (20 for 486 yards), a runner (an 88vard TD and 136 yards rushing against Nebraska) and blocker to sweep all-league honors and make second-team All-America on the AP list.

Missouri's Clay is the best known of the league's offensive linemen. He probably

Offensive Tackle Tom Welter **NEBRASKA**





Offensive Guard Anthony Phillips OKLAHOMA







Offensive Guard Mark Hutson **OKLAHOMA**

Kicker Dale Klein **NEBRASKA**



Offensive Tackle John Clav MISSOURI





Defensive Line Darrell Reed OKLAHOMA

Defensive Line Chris Spachman NEBRASKA





Defensive Line Danny Noonan NEBRASKA

Defensive Line Steve Bryan OKLAHOMA





Linebacker Barry Remington COLORADO

would have been a consensus All-American last season had the Tigers not fallen on such hard times. Even with all the problems in Columbia, however, Darrell Wallace was able to rush for more than 1,000 yards — with most of that coming over the big (6-5, 270) Clay.

The other tackle spot on the All-Big Eight team should be up for grabs, but the pre-season nod goes to Nebraska senior Tom Welter (6-5, 280). Welter is another of those typical Husker offensive linemen who paid his dues and was ready for stardom last year when he got the call.

But there are some other tackles in the Big Eight who should challenge for honors. Oklahoma's Greg Johnson (6-4, 300) might have done so last year had he not suffered a season-ending knee injury against Colorado. Jim Davis (6-6, 260) of Kansas was a second-team pick a year ago as a sophomore. Kansas State coaches like the play of senior Rockey Dvorak (6-5, 280).

Oklahoma's guard combo of Hutson and Phillips appear to be the class of the league going into the season. Assistant head coach Merv Johnson, who's also in charge of the offensive line for the Sooners, is happy with them the way they are. But he can't help but wonder...

"If you could combine the best things of the two into one player, you'd really have a perfect offensive lineman. They're somewhat different. Anthony is much stronger and more of an impact player — more explosive. Mark is more of a technician — always at the right spot, never a wasted motion. They've improved a lot this spring, and in areas where I wanted them to improve. Both are intelligent, hard workers, love a challenge and love to play. They even enjoyed playing against Bosworth and the first-team defense in practice.

"Greg could be as good as either. He has to stay healthy and acquire better techniques. He really hasn't played that much. Keith Jackson needs to get stronger and continue to move in the weight room. He has good technique, is smart, picks things up quickly. You forget to appreciate him because he makes it look so easy."

Nebraska should have an all-star contender in guard John McCormick (6-0, 250), who started on a line last year which



Linebacker Brian Bosworth OKLAHOMA

led NU to the national rushing championship. Iowa State's Vince Jasper (6-3, 260) is another "all" possibility.

While Holieway won the quarterback spot on the Big Eight team a year ago, it will not be all that easy for the California sophomore to repeat.

For one thing, the OU offense appears to be more balanced, with the halfbacks figuring to do more damage. For another, defenses are more apt to key on Holieway, similar to the manner in which Penn State dealt with him in the Orange Bowl. And for another, there are some fine "conventional" type quarterbacks in the conference this year who could challenge for honors.

Nebraska's Steve Taylor (5-11, 195) saw enough action late last fall to establish himself as a star of the future. And his future might be now. Another option quarterback, Taylor could be just the little ingredient NU was missing last fall. Of course, the San Diego sophomore must still win the starting job away from returnee McCathorn Clayton.

Kansas will bring Mike Orth out of redshirt mothballs, and Orth proved before sitting out last year that he is capable of continuing the Jayhawk tradition of record-setting passers. Missouri will be hoping for a great season from sophomore Ronnie Cameron, who was the most heralded of four prep All-American quarterbacks who entered the Big Eight last year (Taylor, Holieway and OU's Eric Mitchel were the others).

Iowa State welcomes back Alex Espinosa, who had a great 1984 season, but never quite got things together last fall. And Oklahoma State's Ronnie Williams has an arm as strong as any of them and superior receivers. His stats might be the best in the league if the OSU offensive line can be rebuilt before the league schedule begins.

There will be a stable full of all-star type running backs in the Big Eight this fall. O-State's Thomas and NU's DuBose are the best known, of course, and it will take an injury in all likelihood to keep either off the All-Big Eight team for the third straight year.

But Wallace, despite his 5-7, 167 size, showed last year as a sophomore that he has a great future. And Oklahoma's Spencer Tillman and Earl Johnson wowed the league in 1983 as redshirt freshmen after Marcus Dupree left for an abbreviated pro career. Either of the two Sooner seniors could contend for post-season honors this fall — if they can get enough playing time away from youngsters like Pat Collins, Anthony Stafford, Damon Stell and Don Maloney.

Nebraska always has a backup or two behind its starting I-back who could play for anyone in any league. And this year will be no different. Keith Jones is as quick as any the Huskers have had, and Jon Kelley will make his presence known as well.

The interesting story around the Big Eight this fall, however, could be how a few rookie backs perform - if they make it past academic roadblocks. The most talked about, of course, is Missouri's Tony VanZant. With Wallace having performed so well a year ago, it is doubtful the big back from St. Louis will come right in and start. But there are those who think he's capable of doing just that. Colorado has high hopes for J.J. Flannigan to do just the same, and the Buffs need help at halfback. They will be loaded at quarterback and fullback.

Loaded at fullback is just what Oklahoma is. The Sooners have perhaps the league's best in junior Lydell Carr. But even he has been pushed in practice by Florida sophomore Leon Perry, who played both halfback spots and fullback a year ago as a true freshman. Those two might be the best two in the Big Eight.

But Colorado has a veteran performer in Anthony Weatherspoon (6-0, 240), who led his team in rushing while starting all but two games in 1985. He had 569 yards and two touchdowns on the season. "He's the big, burly and strong fullback you need in a wishbone offense when it's third or fourth down and you need a yard or two," says CU coach Bill McCartney. "Anthony's the kind of back you know can get you that yard."

Nebraska's Ken Kaelin saw enough action last year at fullback to prove he's capable of adding to the great Husker tradition at that spot. But sophomore Tyreese Knox has as much physical ability as any NU running back, and if he gets his act together, he could be the most dangerous

fullback in the league.

The Big Eight will be full of experienced and talented kicking specialists this fall. Klein was the pick of the voters last year, thanks to his strong finish and the record day at Columbia. But Missouri's Tom Whelihan (16 of 25 field goals) and Jayhawk Jeff Johnson (18 of 26 to lead the league) are both returning, as is Oklahoma's Orange Bowl hero Tim Lashar (15 of 21). Iowa State has Rick Frank (11 of 16) back behind the tee, Oklahoma State hopes to get a full healthy year from Brad Dennis and Kansas State returns Mark Porter. The field is wide open.

Defensively, Darrell Reed of OU is the only returning all-star up front. And he's been there the past two years at end.

But the only reason some of the other returning defensive linemen from 1985 were not all-conference a year ago is simply the presence of Casillas, O'Neal and Murphy.

Nebraska's Danny Noonan (6-4, 280) was a dominating force in the league a year ago at middle guard. He is almost certain to be a high pro pick in the next draft. And the Huskers' Chris Spachman (6-5, 260) will be starting for the third straight year at one tackle spot. He should finally get some all-star recognition - particularly after scoring two touchdowns on returns of a fumble and interception.

The fourth member of the defensive front on this pre-season team is OU's Steve Bryan, who has gotten better and better as he's gotten bigger.

But there will be plenty of competition for the post-season all-league team. Missouri has one of the best around in Dick Chapura (6-3, 260), and Kansas State's Kevin Humphrey (6-3, 240) made a big impact in the conference last year, being named the Newcomer of the Year on defense and second-team All-Big Eight the same as Chapura, Noonan and Spachman.

Kansas has a pair of experienced interior linemen who could be in the middle of the picture. Eldridge Avery (6-3, 250) and Steve Nave (6-2, 245) are tough inside, while Phil Forte (6-3, 245) has been around for a while at end. Nebraska's Lee Jones (6-1, 230) will be one of the fastest linemen in the league, with OU's Troy Johnson (6-2, 225) and NU's Broderick Thomas (6-2, 220) and Tony Holloway (6-2, 205) ranking among the best of the defensive ends.

As mentioned, the linebacking corps will be in keeping with Big Eight tradition. Bosworth is one of three the Sooners have who helped turn the OU program around the past two seasons. Dante Jones (6-2, 225) and Paul Migliazzo (6-1, 222) would be stars anywhere else.

Munford (6-2, 230) was missed considerably by the Huskers last year when he was sidelined by knee surgery and complications from that surgery that threatened his life. If Marc is not able to go at full speed this fall, Nebraska coaches may elect to hold him out and let Kevin Parsons (6-3, 230 junior) carry the load. LeRoy Etienne (6-1, 235) is a sure bet to be a star in his own right before he finishes his next three years in Lincoln.

Remington's career was plagued by injuries until last year, but the Colorado standout finally had a healthy season and put everything together.

Iowa State has a pair of good ones in Braswell and Gibson, while Missouri had to rely on freshmen Terry Walker and Steve Vandegrift, with both looking like all-stars of the future. Kansas likes its

Punter Barry Helton COLORADO



Linebacker Marc Munford NEBRASKA



Defensive Back Mickey Pruitt COLORADO

Defensive Back Sonny Brown **OKLAHOMA**





Defensive Back Ricky Dixon **OKLAHOMA**

Defensive Back Mark Moore **OKLAHOMA** STATE



linebacking trio of Darnell Williams (6-2, 228), Bredesen (6-1, 230) and John Randolph (6-1, 230). Colorado's Don De-Luzio (6-2, 220) is one of the unsung linebackers of the league who probably ought to get more recognition.

Oklahoma State's Moore is the class of the league's defensive backs, and he should be even more effective if the Pokes can leave him at cornerback this fall. Colorado's Pruitt won honors as a sophomore last year, but some feel the best D-back for the Buffs is free safety Rodney Rodgers. who was in on 21 tackles last fall against Oklahoma after Pruitt was sidelined in the first minutes.

OSU's Hudson is the other returnee from last year's All-Big Eight secondary. But with with strong safeties around like OU's Brown, Missouri's McMillan and Pruitt, it might be tough for him to repeat. A healthy Ricky Dixon at Oklahoma might have to have a spot in that backfield, and the Sooners also have potential breakthroughs like Derrick Crudup, Ken McMichel, Tony Rayburn, Ledell Glenn and Mark White.

Nebraska has än outstanding senior corner in Brian Davis (6-3, 195), and monster Brian Washington (6-1, 220) has the physical talents to win all-star honors.

While Helton was the class of the league punters last fall, he's not got the only thunderous foot in the Big Eight. Kansas State's Troy Faunce had a 42.3 average last fall, second in the conference. Oklahoma's Mike Winchester was hot and cold, battling it out with Helton through mid-season. And Winchester is seemingly at his best in big games. He averaged over 48 yards per kick against Texas. Rob Dickerson of Kansas (41.1) and Rich Thompson of OSU (40.7) could also put some heat on

Here are complete thumbnail sketches on the first-team picks for this pre-season All-Big Eight squad:

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE

Hart Lee Dykes, Oklahoma State Wide Receiver, 6-4, 210 soph. - Recognized as the top high school athlete in the state of Texas two years ago when he starred in football, baseball and basketball for Bay City, Dykes failed to make his expected grand entrance in the Big Eight in 1985 due to a series of injuries. But he displayed his talents in a Gator Bowl loss to Florida State when he caught eight passes for 104 yards, one a 31-yard touchdown, With the threat of flanker Bobby Riley's speed keeping opposing secondaries loose, and the necessity to diversify the OSU offense, Dykes should have the kind of season the Cowboys visualized when they signed him.

John Clay, Missouri Tackle, 6-5, 270 senior - Even the Tigers' 1-10 season in

1985 couldn't keep this big stallion from St. Louis off the All-Big Eight team for the second year in a row. Clay was also named second-team All-America last fall, and a strong rebound by Mizzou in 1986 could thrust him into contention for the Outland and Lombardi awards. Coach Woody Widenhofer and line coach Bill Meyers call him the best athlete they've ever been around...and they've been around some great ones!

Mark Hutson, Oklahoma Guard, 6-4, 290 junior - He broke the hearts of University of Arkansas fans when he left Razorback Country and came to Norman. And he immediately made a place for himself with the Sooners. Playing some as a true freshman, Hutson hauled in All-Big Eight honors last year as a sophomore. He started the year at tackle, but was moved to guard. He seldom makes a mistake in

SECOND-TEAM OFFENSE

WR - Herbert Johnson, Missouri, 5-11, 183,

T-Greg Johnson, Oklahoma, 6-4, 300, Jr.

G-Vince Jasper, Iowa State, 6-3, 260, Sr.

C-Travis Simpson, Oklahoma, 6-3, 263, Sr.

G-John McCormick, Nebraska, 6-1, 250, Jr. T - Jim Davis, Kansas, 6-6, 260, Jr.

TE—Jon Embree, Colorado, 6-2, 225, Sr. QB—Steve Taylor, Nebraska, 5-11, 195, So.

RB - Darrell Wallace, Missouri, 5-7, 167, Jr.

RB — Spencer Tillman, Oklahoma, 5-11, 200, Sr.

FB - Anthony Weatherspoon, Colorado, 6-(),

K - Jeff Johnson, Kansas, 5-9, 170, Sr.

his technique, and he's gotten bigger and stronger to overcome his only shortcom-

Eric Coyle, Colorado Center, 6-2, 260 senior - He started all 12 games for the Buffs last year in his first injury-free season, and he made second-team All-Big Eight behind Nebraska's graduated Bill Lewis. Bench pressing 425 pounds, he's the strongest CU player. And the Longmont, Colo., native was voted Colorado's MVP on offense last fall. "I can't imagine a better center in the Big Eight," says CU boss Bill McCartney. "He's a true candidate for All-American."

Oklahoma Anthony Phillips, Guard, 6-3, 288 sophomore - Redshirted his freshman year after a look on defense, this Jenks High School grad became an instant success when an injury to Greg Johnson pushed him into a quicker than expected starting role. He started at both right tackle and right guard, and there was even some thought of making a center of him. Extremely versatile. A se-

cond-team Academic All-American. One of the strongest Sooners, he benches 500 pounds. One of the most physical linemen in the Big Eight. His brother Jon was moved from defense to offense this past spring and earned a starting job at left tackle. Anthony and Hutson started every game in 1985 for OU.

Tom Welter, Nebraska Tackle, 6-5, 280 senior - The Huskers won their fourth NCAA rushing title in the past six years last season, and this Yankton, S.D. product was one of the main reasons for that success. One of the primary concerns in Lincoln last fall was the rebuilding of the offensive line, and Welter's emergence as a star helped alleviate any worries in that area. This year he should be another Husker candidate for All-American honors. Strong and quick.

Keith Jackson, Oklahoma Tight End, 6-3, 243 junior - One of the premier athletes in the Big Eight. Jackson shocked Arkansas fans when he turned down the Razorbacks and signed with OU. Folks told the Parade All-America from Little Rock Parkview that he'd be making a mistake coming to a school which didn't throw the ball. But Jackson had 20 catches last fall for 486 yards (24.3 per grab) and earned second-team All-America honors in addition to his nod as the best in the Big Eight. Combining rare speed for a tight end with strength and mistake-proof hands, Jackson has started two straight years. He stunned Nebraska last November when he went 88 yards on an end-around play in the first quarter to spark a 27-7 OU win, Jackson, who rushed for 136 yards on the day against NU, also broke open the Orange Bowl game when he beat the Penn State secondary for a 71-yard TD reception to give Oklahoma a lead it never relinquished. A great blocker as well.

Jamelle Holieway, Oklahoma Quarterback, 5-10, 175 sophomore The first freshman ever to win All-Big Eight honors at quarterback, Holieway was not a starter until the fifth game of the season — taking over for the injured Troy Aikman. The Carson, Calif. (Banning High) native went on to wow the Big Eight and lead OU to eight straight wins, including a 25-10 victory over Penn State in the Orange Bowl. Although playing sparingly in the first three games of the season, Holieway became a nightmare for league foes as he blended unusual strength for his size with quick feet and amazing balance. Holieway rushed for 861 yards to lead the Sooners in that category. He also passed for 517 and five touchdowns, and set a school single game total offense record when he combined for 324 against Missouri in Columbia. He had 162 yards rushing in his second start of the year (against KU). And he rushed for 156 and passed for 168 in that record performance

against the Tigers. His 43-yard TD run against Nebraska gave Oklahoma a 14-0 lead in the first quarter. His strength is his ability to read opposing defenses and audible into the right call. Holieway scored nine touchdowns on the year.

Thurman Thomas, Oklahoma State Tailback, 5-11, 191 junior - He was heralded as the No. I football prepster in the state of Texas in 1983, and he has been every bit that good since coming to Oklahoma State that next season. The Fort Bend Willowridge grad quickly moved into the starting lineup for the Pokes in 1984 and led them to a 10-2 season, including a win in the Gator Bowl. Thomas rushed for 843 yards in the regular season as a rookie, then added 155 more in the Gator Bowl. Last fall he started the campaign as though he would make a serious run at the Heisman Trophy, but had little help from his offensive mates and was slowed down some the last of the year. Still, he was the first back to top 100 yards against OU's nation-leading defense, and he finished the season with 1,553 yards in 302 carries - best in the conference and fourth nationally. Thomas scored 15 touchdowns rushing and caught one TD pass to lead the Big Eight in scoring with 96 points. He was fifth in the league (first among non-quarterbacks) in total offense and first in all-purpose running with 161.9 per game. Thomas, who has rushed for more than 100 yards in 10 of his 16 games at OSU, was UPI All-American last year and the Associated Press Offensive Player of the Year in the Big Eight.

Doug DuBose, Nebraska I-Back, 5-11, 190 senior - The Huskers have had some great I-backs down through the years, but this Uncasville, Conn., flyer is the first to rush for more than 1,000 yards in each of his first two seasons. In 1984 DuBose rushed for 1,040 while splitting time with Jeff Smith. Then last year the durable youngster rushed for 1,161 yards in 203 carries. He's scored eight touchdowns rushing in each of his first two years as a regular and has averaged 6.1 yards per carry in his brilliant career. DuBose has also been effective as a pass receiver and kick returner. His totals in 1985 are even more impressive in light of the fact that he missed most of the Oregon game and all of the win over New Mexico with a knee strain. He had arthroscopic surgery in February, but should be at peak form for the season opener. His 2,205 career yards ranks him sixth in NU history with another season to go. He will likely finish second behind Mike Rozier (4,780). Combining a fluid running style with great strength and balance, DuBose should be a legitimate contender for All-America and Heisman honors this fall. He has been the leading rusher for the Huskers the past two seasons, despite not being considered a starter in 1984. He'll be going for his third straight All-Big Eight honor this fall.

Lydell Carr, Oklahoma Fullback, 6-2, 220 junior — The key to the Sooner wishbone is a fullback who can pound the middle and explode for the big play. Carr has been doing that for two years, earning the starting job as a freshman when Earl Johnson was lost due to an injury. After leading his Enid High School team to a state title in 1983, Carr has continued his winning ways, pacing OU to a pair of Big Eight championships and the national crown a year ago. As a freshman he led the team in rushing with 625 yards in 138 carries. Last season he rushed for 735 yards in 169 tries, then added 148 in 19 Orange Bowl rushes - including a 61-yarder in the fourth quarter which ended all doubt about OU's claim to the national title. His 78 yards in 24 carries over the ice at Still-

SECOND-TEAM DEFENSE

L — Kevin Humphrey, Kansas State, 6-3, 240, Sr.

L-Dick Chapura, Missouri, 6-31/2, 260, Sr.

L - Eldridge Avery, Kansas, 6-3, 250, Jr.

L-Lee Jones, Nebraska, 6-1, 230, Jr.

LB - Kevin Parsons, Nebraska, 6-3, 230. Jr.

LB — Dante Jones, Oklahoma, 6-2, 225, Jr.

LB — Dennis Gibson, Iowa State, 6-3, 225, Sr.

DB — Brian Davis, Nebraska, 6-3, 195, Sr.

DB — Rodney Rogers, Colorado, 6-0, 175, Jr. DB — Mike Hudson, Oklahoma State, 6-0, 205, Sr.

DB - Eric McMillan, Missouri, 6-2, 192, Jr.

P - Troy Faunce, Kansas State, 6-2, 185, Sr.

water in a 13-0 win over OSU was perhaps his most impressive performance at Oklahoma. A bruising runner with breakaway speed, Carr is also an outstanding blocker.

Dale Klein, Nebraska Place Kicker, 6-1, 195 senior — After the first third of the 1985 season, the Seward, Neb., native didn't even have a steady job with the Huskers. But on Oct. 19 in Columbia Klein was called on for field goals seven times and responded by kicking all seven tying an NCAA record. His five field goals in the first half are the best ever in the NCAA. And his 22 points in that game (he also had an extra point in the 28-20 win) gave him a Big Eight record for scoring by a kicker. An academic All-Big Eight choice (he had a 3.80 GPA in business) as well as an on-field all-league pick, Klein finished the year with 13 of 20 field goals and 38 straight extra point kicks. His 77 points led the Huskers in scoring. He was 6-of-8 in tries from 40 to 49 yards out and hit one from 50.

FIRST-TEAM DEFENSE

Darrell Reed, Oklahoma End, 6-2, 211 junior - After redshirting his first year out of Cypress. Texas (a suburb of Houston). Reed picked up the slack for an injured Kevin Murphy when he won unanimous All-Big Eight honors as a freshman in 1984. He repeated last fall, using his upper body strength and quick feet to disrupt enemy offenses the past two years. He's started every game as a Sooner. Had 69 tackles last fall, second best among OU down linemen, after a total of 84 the year before. An instinctive player who always gets to the right place at the right time. Counted on for big plays this year now that Lombardi winner Tony Casillas has run out of eligibilty at nose guard and Murphy is gone at the other end.

Danny Noonan, Nebraska Middle Guard, 6-4, 280 senior - If you ask NU defensive coordinator Charlie McBride, Noonan was the best nose guard in the Big Eight last year - even better than Ok-Jahoma's Lombardi winner Tony Casillas. "He has a chance to be an All-American. He's that good of a player," said McBride, who's seen a few All-American linemen at Nebraska. "Noonan may be the best nose guard in the country next year. I thought he was as good a nose guard as there was in our conference last season, and that's including the Oklahoma guy." Extremely strong (he benched 485 in the spring) and quick, Noonan was in on 47 tackles last year - 33 of those unassisted. He had 11 sacks for 69 yards and 14 tackles for 78 vards in losses. He was second-team allleague behind Casillas. Noonan had his biggest games a year ago against the

Steve Bryan, Oklahoma Tackle, 6-3, 260 senior - Almost lost in the play of Tony Casillas, Jeff Tupper, Kevin Murphy and Darrell Reed last year was the steady improvement of this former tight end and linebacker at Coweta High School in northeast Oklahoma. He's always had the quickness and the attitude to be a great defensive player. But three years on the OU weight program got him big enough and strong enough to become an outstanding defensive tackle. Bryan had 49 tackles last fall and used his quickness to block two extra point kicks. He plays with his motor running at full speed all the time, and he takes advantage of the least little mistake by an opponent. The last of three Bryan brothers to play for the Sooners, following Mitch and Ricky.

toughest Husker foes - Oklahoma and

Michigan.

Chris Spachman, Nebraska Tackle, 6-5, 265 senior — Like Oklahoma's Bryan, he was more or less lost in the shadows cast by teammates Noonan and All-American Jim Skow last year. But the Kansas City, Mo., tackle has been a steady peformer for the Huskers the past two sea-

1986 BIG EIGHT CONFERENCE FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

UPPER CASE Indicates Conterence Gam (n) Indicates Night Games Shaded Areas Indicate Home Games

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November 22	November 15	November 8	November 1	October 25	October 18	October 11	October 4	September 27	September 20	September 13	September 6	August 30	PLAYING DATES CONFERENCE
at OKLA. STATE	KANSAS STATE	NEBRASKA	at MISSOURI	OKLAHOMA	at COLORADO	at KANSAS	Wyoming	Wichita State	Indiana State	at Iowa			IOWA STATE
COLORADO	at IOWA STATE	OKLAHOMA STATE	at NEBRASKA	MISSOURI	KANSAS		at OKLAHOMA		at T.C.U. (n)	Northern lowa (n)	at Texas Tech (n)	Western Illinois (n)	KANSAS STATE
IOWA STATE	MISSOURI	at KANSAS STATE	COLORADO	KANSAS (n)	at OKLAHOMA	at NEBRASKA		Illinois State (n)	Houston (n)	at Tulsa (n)	at S.W.La.(n)		OKLA. STATE
at KANSAS STATE	OKLAHOMA	KANSAS	at OKLA. STATE	NEBRASKA	IOWA STATE	at MISSOURI		Arizona	at Ohio St.	at Oregon	Colorado State		COLORADO
at MISSOURI	NEBRASKA	at COLORADO	ОКLАНОМА	at OKLA. STATE (n)	at KANSAS STATE	IOWA STATE	Southern Illinois	Indiana State	Utah State	North Carolina			KANSAS
KANSAS	at OKLA. STATE	at ОКLАНОМА	IOWA STATE	at KANSAS STATE	at NEBRASKA	COLORADO	at Syracuse	Indiana	Texas	Utah State			MISSOURI
OKLAHOMA	at KANSAS	at IOWA STATE	KANSAS STATE	at COLORADO	MISSOURI	OKLAHOMA STATE	at S. Carolina	Oregon	at Illinois		Florida State (n)		NEBRASKA
at NEBRASKA	at COLORADO	MISSOURI	at KANSAS	at IOWA STATE	OKLAHOMA STATE	Texas at Dallas	KANSAS STATE	at Miami (Fla.)	Minnesota		UCLA		OKLAHOMA

sons. He returned an interception 38 yards for a touchdown against Illinois last year, then prevented NU's 146-game scoring streak from ending at Norman when he returned an OU fumble 76 yards for a touchdown with only 26 seconds left. Played only one year of high school football and never intended to play college ball. But he'll be starting his third season at Nebraska after redshirting as a sophomore. Has always been a great technique player, but has added size, muscle and pass rushing ability to his game for 1986 and should be one of the best in the Midlands. Had seven sacks in 1984 and two more last fall. And he's had 17 more tackles for losses in those two seasons.

Barry Remington, Colorado Linebacker, 6-4, 225 senior - Predicted for greatness when he enrolled at CU, this Boulder native suffered through the frustration of one injury after another, including a pinched nerve in his neck which kept him out of much of the 1984 season. Last fall Remington earned second-team All-Big Eight accolades, was a team captain and started all 12 games in his first season without a major injury. Led the Buffs in tackles with 162, 83 of those unassisted. Had eight pass deflections and forced six fumbles. "Our defensive leader," says Colorado coach Bill McCartney. "He covers more ground than most inside linebackers I've ever seen, and thus always seems to be in the right place at the right time."

Brian Bosworth, Oklahoma Linebacker, 6-2, 234 junior - Mr. Linebacker. The heart and soul of a Sooner defense which led the nation last year. The Irving, Tex., native (he was born in Oklahoma City and his parents attended OU before moving to the Dallas suburb) was All-Big Eight as a redshirt freshman in 1984 and the league's Defensive Newcomer of the Year. His mouth and haircuts almost overshadow his greatness on the football field, as he's received more than a little publicity for things he's said about opponents. But he was second-team All-America as a freshman, consensus A-A last year and winner of the first Butkus Award, given to the nation's top linebacker. Nominated 11 times in his first two years as OU's Defensive Player of the Week. Has won the award three times. In the Sooner win over Texas last fall Boz had 14 tackles, 11 unassisted. Two of those were sacks of quarterback Todd Dodge. He also had 14 tackles against Missouri and Nebraska, then led both teams in tackles in the Orange Bowl with 13 - all of them solo. Has 259 tackles in two seasons. Academic All-Big Eight. Has indicated he may turn pro after this season as he will graduate next May.

Marc Munford, Nebraska Linebacker, 6-2, 230 senior — A shaky pick here, but not because of his ability. Munford was an All-Big Eight pick last

year despite missing two games (Missouri and Oklahoma). The Littleton, Colo., grad developed kidney problems after surgery before the OU game and fought for his life. Now he'll have to fight for his football future, as the knee injury was a severe one. Husker coaches won't take a chance, however, if he's not fully recovered. Munford has not yet been redshirted — an unusual circumstance for an NU player. He played some as a freshman in 1983, then had 96 tackles in 1984 as a sophomore - seven of those for losses and another a sack. Last fall Munford was in on 67 tackles, 43 of them unassisted, despite his abbreviated campaign. He's also had two interceptions in each of those years and a total of three fumble recoveries. One of his interceptions was returned 57 yards for a touchdown. Big, strong, mobile and with all the instincts that make a great

HONORABLE MENTION

Colorado --Jo Jo Collins, WR, 6-0, 180, Jr.; Dave Deline, K, 5-9, 170, So.; Darin Schubeck, LB, 6-2, 205, Sr. Iowa State — Hughes Suffren, WR, 6-3, 188, Jr.; Alex Espinoza, QB, 6-1, 183, Sr.; Jeff Braswell, 6-1, 224, Sr.; Terr-

pinoza, QB, 6-1, 183, 5r; Jeri Drasweii, 6-1, 224, 5r; Terrence Anthony, DB, 5-10, 183, Sr.

Kansas — Bob Pieper, OT, 6-5, 270, Sr.; Mike Orth, QB, 6-5, 195, Jr.; Willie Vaughn, WR, 6-0, 180, So.; Steve Nave, DT, 6-2, 245, Sr.; Phil Forte, DE, 6-3, 245, Sr.; Rick Bredesen, LB, 6-1, 230, Jr.; Wayne Ziegler, DB, 6-2, 190, 6-2, 180, Da, 44, b. LL, 6-1, 235, Sc.

Sr.; John Randolph, LB, 6-1, 225, Sr.

Starsas State — Bob Bessert, OG, 6-2, 275, Sr.; Rocky Dvorak, OT, 6-5, 280, Sr.; Jeff Hurd, DE, 6-2, 245, Sr. Missouri — Phil Pettey, OG, 6-4, 270, Sr.; Tom Whelihan, K, 5-10, 188, Jr.; Mike Vestweber, LB, 6-2, 220, Sr.; Terry Walker, LB, 6-1, 205, So.; Steve Vandegrift, LB, 6-4, 237, Ca.

Nebraska — Von Sheppard, WR, 5-9, 185, Jr.; Tony Hol-loway, DE, 6-2, 205, Sr.; Brian Washington, DB, 6-1, 205,

Oklahoma — Paul Migliazzo, LB, 6-2, 225, Sr.; Derrick Crudup, DB, 6-3, 215, Jr.; Tony Rayburn, DB, 6-3, 193, Sr.; Tim Lashar, K, 5-9, 158, Sr.; Patrick Collins, RB, 5-10. 185, jr.; Leon Perry, FB, 6-1, 225, So.; Mike Winchester, P, 6-1, 180, Sr.; Derrick Shepard, WR, 5-11, 186, Sr.; Oklahoma State — Bobby Riley, WR, 5-9, 168, Sr.; Ronnie Williams, QB, 6-4, 215, Jr.; Melvin Gilliam, DB, 6-2, 170, So.

linebacker. He'll go down as one of the best ever to play in Lincoln.

Mickey Pruitt, Colorado Defensive Back, 6-1, 195 junior - Another in a long line of great Colorado defensive backs, this Chicago native earned All-Big Eight honors last year as a sophomore. Made his biggest noise against Oregon when he sacked Chris Miller on the final play of the game - a fourth and goal play from the CU three to preserve a 21-17 win for the rejuvenated Buffs. Played the last half of the 1985 season with a hand fracture, and went to the sidelines early in the Oklahoma game with an injury. Had 63 tackles a year ago. Plays strong safety for Colorado - one of the most talented positions in the conference. "One of the best in the league," says coach Bill McCartney. "A real hitter, and a kid who motivates his teammates. He's the kind of player who can be an All-American someday, and this year wouldn't be out of the question."

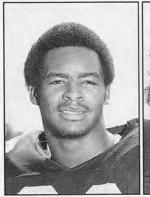
Mark Moore, Oklahoma State Defensive Back, 6-0, 194 senior - The Big

Eight's "hit man." An All-American last year as a junior, he had seven interceptions in 1985 to give him 14 for his career as a Cowboy. Three of those Moore has returned for touchdowns. But he is even better known for his crushing tackles on enemy ball carriers. There's no harder hitter in a very physical league. This Texasnative has starred at free safety, but OSU coaches have tried for two years to find a replacement there so that they could move Moore to cornerback and leave him there. A great pro prospect.

Sonny Brown, Oklahoma Defensive Back, 6-2, 190 senior - The former Alice, Texas, quarterback showed his versatility in the Orange Bowl when he moved from safety to cornerback and was named the Most Valuable Back, intercepting a pair of Penn State passes - one on the goalline in the third quarter. Brown had five interceptions during the regular season and another against Minnesota on the final play of the game that officials did not bother signalling. Despite the knock on his physical ability (primarily a lack of speed, although he's never demonstrated that to be the case). Brown has started at strong safety, free safety and corner. Has started every game for two years, and played a lot as a redshirt freshman in 1983, getting three interceptions that year. Saved a TD against Nebraska when he chased down Von Sheppard at the six when it appeared the Husker would score. A great leader on the field in a secondary which led the nation in pass defense last year.

Ricky Dixon, Oklahoma Defensive Back, 5-10, 180 junior — All this Dallas youngster has to do to gather in post-season honors is stay healthy. Dixon was so impressive as a freshman that he played, and played a lot. Blistering speed, but his real talent is hitting people. He's had five pass interceptions in two years, three of those last fall when he saw limited action due to two separate injuries. Arthroscopic surgery after a knee injury against Kansas caused him to miss four games, but he bounced back to play great games against SMU and Penn State. Fast enough and physical enough to play the corner, but his instincts make him a natural free safety, and that is where the OU coaches would like to keep him...injury-free if possible.

Barry Helton, Colorado Punter, 6-3, 195 junior - "What more can you say about a consensus All-American?" asks coach Bill McCartney. Indeed, there has already been a lot said about this kicker from Simla, Colo. He led the Big Eight in punting from start to finish in 1985, finishing with a 46.0 average for second in the nation. His net average of 43.6 (including punt returns) led the nation as CU went from last to first in the country in one year. "This area was our most improved phase of the game a year ago," McCartney adds, "and in Helton we have a real weapon." •











Winslow

Vaughan

Towns

Brahanev

Roberts

Rodgers, Kickers Top 1970s Dream Team

By Jim Weeks

The offense virtually would be unstoppable.

Half a hundred every game.

It has the passing of Lynn Dickey, the receiving of Kellen Winslow, the receiving, running and returns of Johnny Rodgers, the power running of John Riggins and Billy Sims and the breakaway threats

of Joe Washington, Rodgers and Sims.

That doesn't even include its All-American linemen.

And if all else failed, Uwe von Schamann would be there to boot a last-second field goal.

But, wait a minute! The defense is equally as impressive.

Nothing but shutouts here.

You can't run around Willie Harper or Herb Orvis. You can't run over Lee Roy Selmon, John Dutton and Rich Glover.

And even if you did, Rod Shoate and Gary Spani would be there to stop you before you got to the secondary.

And with Cliff Parsley punting, you would start too far away to ever score on this bunch anyway.

Thus the All-Big Eight Conference football team of the 1970s couldn't be stopped on offense and couldn't be scored on, on defense. That's not surprising for a conference that was at its best in its history during that decade.

A panel of veteran sportswriters selected the 1970's All-Decade Team. Their only limitations were to select players who made all-conference in the 1970s and to judge them on their collegiate performances.

Three were unanimous choices — Nebraska wingback Johnny Rodgers, Oklahoma placekicker Uwe von Schamann and Oklahoma State punter Cliff Parsley.

Oklahoma halfback Billy Sims and Óklahoma defensive tackle Lee Roy Selmon just missed being unanimous by one vote each. And Missouri tight end Kellen Winslow, Oklahoma guard Greg Roberts, Oklahoma center Tom Brahaney and Kansas fullback John Riggins on offense and Nebraska nose guard Rich Glover and Oklahoma linebacker Rod Shoate on de-

Nebraska's Johnny Rodgers — top votegetter on offense. fense just missed by two votes.

The other selections on offense were tackles Mike Vaughan of Oklahoma and Morris Towns of Missouri, guard Derrel Gofourth of Oklahoma State, quarterback Lynn Dickey of Kansas State and halfback Joe Washington of Oklahoma.

The other selections on defense were ends Willie Harper of Nebraska and Herb Orvis of Colorado, tackle John Dutton of Nebraska, linebacker Gary Spani of Kansas State and backs Mark Haynes of Colorado, Clarence Scott of Kansas State, Randy Hughes of Oklahoma and Eric Wright of Missouri.

Only Iowa State was not represented.

"I guess Rodgers was in a class by himself," commented Bob Broeg, who has been with the St. Louis Post Dispatch since













Riggins

Sims

Washington

Dickey

Von Schamann

1945.

"Rodgers and Joe Washington were the most exciting players of the 1970s," commented Bill Connors, who has been with the *Tulsa World* since 1952.

While Rodgers was an unquestioned choice, quarterback caused some problems.

"You can argue this one all day — and all night," commented Buck Turnbull, who has been with the *Des Moines Register* since 1952. "You probably need a separate category for conventional and Wishbone quarterbacks."

"Very difficult to sort out because of so many name candidates," commented Bob Hentzen, who has been with the *Topeka Capital Journal* since 1958, "because some were Wishbone quarterbacks and some more classic quarterbacks."

For the record, Nebraska's Jerry Tagge and Missouri's Phil Bradley were only one vote apart and not far behind Dickey in the quarterback balloting. Kansas' Nolan Cromwell was next, the leader among Wishbone candidates.

"Cromwell was one of the great athletes to ever play in the Big Eight," commented Connors.

The separate listings have the players at each position in the order of the voting.

Lee Roy Selmon got the most first-place votes of any defensive player, but the voting was extremely close at end, linebacker and defensive back.

"Lee Roy was Johnny Rodgers at his position," commented Connors.

"Lee Roy Selmon could have played just about ANYWHERE and beat the bejesus out of his man or men," commented Broeg.

Shoate was a solid choice at linebacker. But Spani edged Oklahoma's George Cumby by only one vote for the other linebacker position.

Oklahoma's Zac Henderson also was only one vote behind Wright among the defensive backs. The top four defensive backs were separated by only eight votes.

Oklahoma's Jimbo Elrod finished only two votes behind Orvis at defensive end.

Sooner John Roush was nosed out by

one vote by Gofourth at guard.

"Gofourth was one of the most versatile and underrated linemen to play offense," commented Connors. "He was all-star level at center, guard and tackle."

And Nebraska offensive tackles Daryl White and Kelvin Clark tied with each other, only two points behind Towns.

Sims was far ahead at halfback, one of the other glamor positions. He received five of six first-place votes there and got a first-place vote at fullback. Only five votes separated Washington from Oklahoma State's Terry Miller, who finished only two votes behind Oklahoma's Greg Pruitt.

In a lighter moment, we included the position of holder.

"David Humm made a good living doing little else for about 10 years in the pros," commented Virgil Parker of the Lincoln Journal and Star.

"Being senile, I don't remember any famous holders," commented Hentzen. "Did Jack Mildren hold?"

Commented Chuck Woodling of the Lawrence Journal World;

"Get serious."

The 1971 Nebraska football team came the closest to winning a national championship tournament than any other team in history.

The Cornhuskers posted a 13-0 record and finished No. 1 in the final AP poll after defeating No. 2 Oklahoma, No. 3 Colorado and No. 4 Alabama.

The Cornhuskers also were named the best Big Eight Conference Team of the Decade of the 1970s by a panel of veteran sportswriters.

However, that vote was closer than most of Nebraska's games in 1971. The Cornhuskers and Oklahoma's 1974 national championship team received two first-place votes each. But Nebraska received one more point overall.

Nebraska beat Oklahoma, 35-31, in its only close encounter in 1971 and that contest decided the national title. The Cornhuskers were ranked No. 1 when they defeated then-No. 2-ranked Alabama, 38-6, in the Orange Bowl. Nebraska handed the

Sooners and Crimson Tide their only losses of the season.

After the bowl games, Oklahoma was voted second and Colorado, which lost only to the Sooners and Cornhuskers, was third.

"That team has been voted the best in history in several polls," said Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney, who was the Cornhusker head coach at the time.

Nebraska had a mistake-free offense sparked by game-breaker Johnny Rodgers and a defense that allowed an average of only six points a game, if you don't count the 31 scored by Oklahoma.

The Cornhuskers extended their victory streak to 23 in a row after also claiming the 1970 national championship. And Nebraska had gone 32 games without a loss through the 1971 campaign. Only a 21-21 tie with Southern California in 1970 marred that record.

Nebraska's balance was demonstrated by its rankings in NCAA statistics in 1971: eighth in total offense, fifth in total defense, second in rushing defense, third in scoring with 39.1 points a game and third in scoring defense with 8.2 points a game.

All-American selections from that team were nose guard Rich Glover, end Willie Harper and tackle Larry Jacobson on defense and wingback Rodgers, quarterback Jerry Tagge and I-back Jeff Kinney on offense. Jacobson won the Outland Trophy in 1971, and Rodgers won the Heisman Trophy in 1972.

All-conference selections from the 1971 Cornhuskers were tackle Carl Johnson, guard Dick Rupert, Rodgers, Tagge and Kinney on offense and backs Jim Anderson, Bill Kosch and Joe Blahak, Harper, Jacobson and Glover on defense.

Two other teams received first-place votes in the balloting for the top team. Oklahoma's 1975 national championship team and the unbeaten 1973 Sooners received one first-place vote each.

The 1975 Sooners were third, the 1971 Sooners fourth and the 1973 Sooners fifth in the voting. Other teams receiving votes were Nebraska's 1970 national champions, 1971 Colorado and 1978 Oklahoma.











Glover

Harper

Dutton Shoate

Spani

Nebraska's 1971 record

Oregon, 34-7
Minnesota, 35-7
Texas A&M, 34-7
Utah State, 42-6
Missouri, 36-0
Kansas, 55-0
Oklahoma State, 41-13
Colorado, 31-7
Iowa State, 37-0
Kansas State, 44-17
Oklahoma, 35-31
Hawaii, 45-3
Orange Bowl, Alabama, 38-6.

Most Significant Game

Jerry Tagge dropped back to pass. At the last second, he avoided an Oklahoma defender and passed to Johnny Rodgers, who made a diving catch.

The play gained only 11 yards.

But it probably was the key play in what was the most significant football game in the heyday of the Big Eight Conference.

Nebraska won the Game of the Century in Norman, Okla., in 1971 and, with it, many believe the Cornhuskers won the right to be called the best team in the history of the college game.

That play came on one of three key third-down situations on Nebraska's winning drive in its 35-31 triumph over the Sooners. The teams were all-victorious. The Cornhuskers were ranked No. 1 after winning the national championship in 1970. The Sooners were ranked No. 2 in the nation on that cold November afternoon. They ended the season that way.

The completed pass from quarterback Tagge to wingback Rodgers took Nebraska to the Oklahoma 35-yard line and a first down. Six plays later, I-back Jeff Kinney scored his last of four touchdowns on a two-yard dive into the line. The touchdown on third down came with only one-minute, 38 seconds left in the game.

"Tagge and Rodgers kind of improvised on that play," said Nebraska Athletic Director Bob Devaney, who was Husker head coach at the time. "Tagge was supposed to throw the ball earlier, but Rodgers wasn't open. Then when Rodgers got open, Tagge was being rushed very badly. Rodgers had to dive for the ball."

California businessman Chuck Fairbanks, who was Oklahoma head coach at the time, also remembered the play as a key one.

"We came close to sacking Tagge on

that play," Fairbanks said.

"(Oklahoma defensive end) Raymond Hamilton had a turf toe and I don't think he had even practiced that week. In fact, he was questionable for the game and his ability to change direction was impaired.

"They had a third down and gained 11 yards. I know that," said Fairbanks, recalling the situation 15 years later with no help.

"We had called timeout and sent in a defensive maneuver to get Raymond free on the pass rush. It worked. But Tagge dodged him just in time and got the pass away. It's just speculation, but I think if he hadn't been hurt, he would have had a better chance of getting him."

That was just one of the many exciting plays in the game a panel of writers selected as the most significant in the Big Eight's Golden Age of football, the Decade of the 1970s.

No other game was even close in the voting, although Nebraska's 17-14 win over then-No. 1-ranked Oklahoma in 1978 was a clear-cut second. That setback probably knocked the Sooners out of another national title.

"It was a ball game that was in doubt right up to the end," said Devaney of the 1971 contest. "It went back and forth.

"We had to stop an Oklahoma drive at our end and then march the length of the field to win. It was a very dramatic game.

"Both teams played very well offensively. We both had some fine defensive players but we just weren't able to stop each other in that game like some people thought we would.

> Oklahoma's Lee Roy Selmon drew more votes than anyone else on defense.

"I made a bad decision that hurt us. We changed our pass defense for the Oklahoma game. We moved our safety, who had been used to playing zone, to corner where he was man-to-man. Oklahoma was smart enough to take advantage of that and he had trouble covering their best receiver (split end Jon Harrison, who caught two TD passes from quarterback Jack Mildren)."

"I coached for 29 years, and that game was the most memorable I was ever involved in," said Fairbanks.

"The game had a lot of anticipation for many, many months. So many games like that so often fall short of what is expected. But this game lived up to its expectations.

"There were so many great plays to make it so exciting. It was high-scoring. But that was due to great plays on offense as opposed to the inability of either defense













Orvis

Haynes

Scott

NU-OU Play

Hughes

Time

Wright

to handle the offensive talents."

Kinney led the rushers with 174 yards on 31 carries. Mildren rushed for 130 yards on 31 carries and scored two touchdowns and completed five of 10 passes for 137 yards and two touchdowns to his high-school teammate, Harrison.

Middle guard Rich Glover had 22 tackles to lead a Nebraska defense that gave up only an average of six points a contest in 12 other games that season.

Only one penalty was called in the nationally televised contest. Nebraska was penalized five yards for offside.

Nebraska beat Alabama in the Orange Bowl to retain its No. 1 rating. Oklahoma beat Auburn in the Sugar and regained its No. 2 ranking. Colorado, which suffered its only losses to its conference rivals, was ranked No. 3. That is the only time in history teams in the same conference finished in top three spots in the AP poll.

Other games receiving votes as the most significant in the 1970s were Oklahoma's 31-24 win over Nebraska in the 1979 Orange Bowl, Kansas' 23-3 win over Oklahoma in 1975, Oklahoma's 35-10 win over Nebraska in 1975, Colorado's 29-17 win over Houston in the Astro- Bluebonnet Bowl in 1971, Oklahoma's 28-27 win over Missouri in 1975, Nebraska's 38-6 win over Alabama in the Orange Bowl in 1972 and Colorado's 20-14 over Oklahoma in 1972.

INTERESTING SIDELINES: 11 assistant coaches in '71 OU-Nebraska game later became head coaches at major colleges.

OU — Barry Switzer at OU, Jim Dickey at Kansas State, Galen Hall at Florida, Larry Lacewell at Arkansas State, Bill Michael at Texas-El Paso and Jimmy Johnson at OSU and Miami.

Nebraska — Tom Osborne at Nebraska, Warren Powers at Washington State and Missouri, Carl Selmer at Miami, Jim Walden at Washington State and Monte Kiffin at North Carolina State.

SCORING First Quarter

6-0	Rodgers 72 yard punt return	11:28
7-0	Sanger extra-point kick	
7-3	Carroll 30 yard field goal	5:57
	Second Quarter	
13-3	Kinney one yard run	11:08
14-3	Sanger extra point kick	
14-9	Mildren two yard run	5:10
14-10	Carroll extra point kick	
14-16	Harrison 24 pass f/Mildren	:05
14-17	Carroll extra point kick	
	Third Quarter	
20-17	Kinney three yard run	8:54
21-17	Sanger extra point kick	
27-17	Kinney one yard run	3:38
28-17	Sanger extra point kick	
28-23	Mildren three yard run	:28
28-24	Carroll extra point kick	
	Fourth Quarter	
28-30	Harrison 17 pass f/Mildren	7:10
28-31	Carroll extra point kick	
34-31	Kinney two yard run	1:38
		1.00

NEBRASKA LINEUPS

35-31 Sanger extra point kick

OFFENSE: SE — Woody Cox; LT — Daryl White; LG — Dick Rupert; C — Doug Dumler; RG — Keith Wortman; RT — Al Austin; TE — Jerry List; QB — Jerry Tagge; RB — Jeff Kinney; WB — Johnny Rodgers; FB — Bill Olds.

DEFENSE: LE — John Atkins; LT — Larry Jacobson; MG — Rich Glover; RT — Bill Janssen; RE — Willie Harper; WLB — Bob Terrio; SLB — Jim Branch; LC — Joe Blahak; RC — Jim Anderson; M — Dave Mason; S — Bill Kosch.

OKLAHOMA LINEUPS

OFFENSE: TE — Albert Chandler; LT — Dean Unruh; LG — Darryl Emmert; C — Tom Brahaney; RG — Ken Jones; RT — Robert Jensen; SE — Jon Harrison; QB — Jack Mildren; LH — Ron Bell; RH — Gregg Pruitt; FB — Leon Crosswhite.

DEFENSE: LE — Raymond Hamilton; LT — Lucious Selmon; RT — Derland Moore; RE — Lionell Day; SLB — Albert Qualls; MLB — Steve Aycock; WLB — Mark Driscoll; LC — Kenith Pope; RC — Steve O'Shaughnessy; SS — Larry Roach; S — John Shelley.

Statistics

			Ne	b	OU
First downs			19	9	22
Rushing			29	7	279
Passing			6	3	188
Total offense			362	S	467
Passing			13-6-0)	11-6-0
Fumbles-lost			1-3	1	3-3
Penalties			1-5	3	0
Nebraska	7	7	14	7	- 35
Oklahoma	3	14	7	7	-31

THEPANEL

Wayne Bishop: Graduate of the University of Oklahoma, has been with University Sports Publications, Inc. since 1979 after working for the Tulsa World and Oklahoma Journal.

Bob Broeg: Graduate of the University of Missouri, has been with the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* since 1945.

Bill Connors: Graduate of Oklahoma State University, has been with the Tulsa World since 1952.

Bob Hentzen: Graduate of the University of Oklahoma, has been with the *Topeka Capital Journal* since 1958.

Virgil Parker: Graduate of the University of Oregon, has been with the Lincoln Journal & Star since 1967.

Buck Turnbull: Graduate of the University of Iowa, has been with the *Des Moines Register* since 1952.

Chuck Woodling: Graduate of the University of Missouri, has been with the Lawrence Journal World since 1968

A Colorado sports writer agreed to participate in the poll but never returned his ballot. \spadesuit









Junior Miller

Kelvin Clark

Dean Steinkuhler







Mike Rozier

Dave Rimington

Brett Clark

Scott Livingston

Battles of Big Reds Have

By Bill Connors

OFFFNSF

	// I LIVOL
Quarterback	Steve DavisOU1973-75
	Billy Sims OU 1975, 77-79
Runningback	Mike Rozier. Neb. 1981-83
Runningback	Joe WashingtonOU1972-75
Split End	Johnny RodgersNeb1970-72
Tight End	Junior Miller. Neb. 1977-79
Tackle	Kelvin ClarkNeb1976-78
Tackle	Mike Vaughan. OU. 1974-76
Guard L	Dean Steinkuhler. Neb. 1981-83
Guard	Greg RobertsOU 1976-78
Center	Dave Rimington. Neb. 1980-82
Kicker	Rick FulcherOU1971-73

DEFENSE

End	Willie Harper. Neb. 1970-72
	Jimbo ElrodOU1973-75
	Lee Roy Selmon. OU. 1973-75
	Keith GaryOU1979-80
	Rich GloverNeb1970-72
Linebacker	
	Brian BosworthOU1984-85
Cornerback .	Ken PopeOU1971-73
Cornerback .	Jerry AndersonOU1975
Free Safety	Brett Clark. Neb. 1982-84
	Randy HughesOU1972-74
Punter	Scott Livingston. Neb 1983-84

Oklahoma-Texas is more passionate. Alabama-Auburn is more fierce. Ohio State-Michigan is more intense. UCLA-Southern California is more colorful. Georgia-Florida is more festive.

But the best and purest rivalry of contemporary times in college football is Nebraska-Oklahoma. No contest. Since 1970 no rivalry can rival Oklahoma-Nebraska for high stakes and civility.

Consider: Since 1970, the Nebraska-Oklahoma winner won or shared every Big Eight Conference championship and won five national championships. During this time the two schools produced three Heisman Trophy recipients, seven Outland Trophy recipients and five Lombardi Award recipients.

The numbers are staggering. Collectively, Oklahoma and Nebraska have, since 1970, harvested more national championships, Heisman, Lombardi and Outland award winners - 19 - than the Big 10 Conference, Pacific-10 Conference and Southeastern Conference combined (17)!

Nebraska and Oklahoma played what a panel of newsmen voted the best college game ever - the 1971 epic that the Cornhuskers won, 35-31, at Norman. And, they played 16 straight showdowns, and one rematch in the Orange Bowl, without controversy.

Geography may explain the civility of this rivalry. When rivals, because of distance, do not regularly recruit against each other or compete for the same fans, dollars and publicity, there is less likelihood of bitterness and unbecoming conduct.

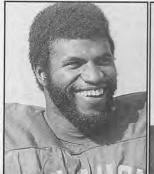
There is no question about what is responsible for the rivalry's enriched quality: Great players.

There have been so many that selecting an Oklahoma-Nebraska all-star team for 1970-1985, based solely on how they played against each other, is an exercise certain to evoke debate. Having covered the last 16 games of the series did not make

The purpose here is not to identify the best players but those who played the best in these 17 showdowns. Most of the superstars excelled in this series but a few were upstaged. Hence, the absence of a few highly decorated names and in their places are less heralded performers.

Oklahoma, which leads the series of this period 11-6, had a 14-10 edge in all-star selections. Nebraska led, 6-5, on offense and Oklahoma dominated on defense, 8-3. They were even on kickers, 1-1.

The late Bear Bryant said Bud Wilkinson told him that he had never seen as many great players on one team as Nebraska had in 1971, and that he doubted







Jerry Anderson

Jimbo Elrod

Keith Gary







Ken Pope

Lee Roy Selmon

Steve Davis

Produced Surprising Stars

there had ever been as many great players on one field as in the Cornhusker-Sooner game of 1971.

But Nebraska's 1971 team has only three representative on this team and the '71 Sooners have none. Oklahoma's 1974 national champions have six.

Steve Davis, who piloted a majestic comeback in a 28-14 victory at Lincoln in 1974 to clinch the first of Oklahoma's three national championships during this period, is a classical example of a player being selected over more decorated rivals.

Jack Mildren's 318-yard broadside (130 rushing and two touchdowns, 188 passing and two touchdowns)against Nebraska's 1971 fortress was, in this opinion, the finest offensive performance of the series.

Turner Gill, who guided Nebraska to three unbeaten seasons in the Big Eight and within inches of two national championships, might have been the Big Eight's best quarterback of his generation. The wishbone may never have been executed with such clinical sleekness as Thomas Lott delivered at Nebraska's expense in 1977.

Yet, Davis' career effectiveness against Nebraska is unmatched. From the moment he turned an intended sneak into a 47-yard touchdown as a sophomore in 1973 through his workhorse effort (A career-high 130 yards rushing) as a senior in a second national championship-clinching victory in 1975, Davis was poison to the Cornhuskers.

In going 3-0 against them, he rushed for 356 yards and scored seven touchdowns. His low in yardage was 112 in 1974 but as a director that may have been Davis' finest game. Trailing 7-14 and fortunate to be that close midway of the third quarter, the Sooners made three of the longest and most impressive touchdown drives an Oklahoma team ever made to win con-

Following graduation, Davis visited Nebraska in the summer of 1976 for a Fellowship of Christian Athletes conference. While in Lincoln, Davis visited with his FCA friend Tom Osborne and was introduced to former defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin. Kiffin recalled seeing Davis for the first time out of uniform:

"For three years we invited him to run, thinking he could not take the punishment and beat us, and every year he killed us. He seemed like a bulldog. Then I met him and I thought, 'This little (5-10) fat-looking kid could not be the same quarterback who beat us every year.' It ruined my summer to think about him. But I respected him even more. He was amazing.

There is no Davis-like selection among

the running backs. Two Heisman winners, Billy Sims (1978) and Mike Rozier (1983), and the only player to start in four straight series victories, Joe Washington, are easy selections.

Sims is the series' most active and most prolific operative. He played in five games against Nebraska, including the Orange Bowl rematch, and rushed for 591 yards, scored six touchdowns and averaged 7.1 yards per carry. He scored on his first carry against the Cornhuskers as a 1975 freshman and did not score in his farewell game in 1979 when he ravaged a defense ranked No. 1 nationally against rushing for 247 yards.

Interestingly, Rozier scored only one touchdown in three games (all victories) against the Sooners. But he rushed for 416 yards for a 5.8 average and was sensational in two games at Norman. He gained 105 yards as a sophomore splitting time with Roger Craig in 1981 and he soloed for 205 yards in his Heisman-clinching valedictory in 1983.

The elusive Washington was pressed into starting duty as a freshman in 1972, when halfbacks Greg Pruitt and Joe Wylie were injured and thus became a pioneer in ending a three-game series winning streak by Nebraska and starting a six-game winning streak by Oklahoma. Washington



Jack Mildren (11) meets Joe Blahak (27) in the 1971 classic.

had two outstanding games in four starts vs. the Huskers — 142 yards as a junior and 107 as a sophomore — while compiling career totals of 325 yards (4.6 average) and two touchdowns.

Tailback Jeff Kinney merits special consideration. He came along one year too soon. In three victories against Oklahoma, beginning in 1969, Kinney rushed for 355 yards, scored six touchdowns and passed for a seventh. He scored four touchdowns, including the winner with 1:38 left, in 1971.

Johnny Rodgers was the most electrifying star to play in the series. Selecting the 1972 Heisman-winning wingback as a split end is not far fetched. As a receiver, Rodgers did not have substantial numbers but he terrified the Sooners every time the ball was thrown in his direction.

He scored on a 53-yard pass in a 1970 victory that put Nebraska in position to win its first championship and, in the door-die play of the Cornhuskers' winning drive in 1971, Rodgers made a diving catch of a third down pass for a first down. Who can forget his 72-yard touchdown return of a punt to launch the fireworks in the '71 game? Rodgers had two home run plays vs. OU erased by penalties — a punt return in 1970 and a pass reception in 1972.

Although Junior Miller scored only one touchdown against OU and the Sooners held him to minimal big plays, he was the dominant tight end of this period. No tight end, however, ever dominated one game the way OU's Keith Jackson did last year.

Four of the five offensive line selections were easy. Dave Rimington, two-time re-

cipient of the Outland and winner of the Lombardi, would be the center on any allstar team involving any Big Eight team in any era.

Dean Steinkuhler, who won the Lombardi and Outland in 1983, and Greg Roberts, who won the Outland while blocking teammate Sims to the Heisman in 1978, are the guards.

Kelvin Clark did not win the Lombardi or Outland but he was the class of tackles during this period. Nebraska's 17-14 upset of Oklahoma in 1978 (when Clark was a senior) is best remembered for Sims' fumble at the Cornhusker three-yard line late in the fourth quarter. Largely forgotten is how Nebraska denied OU another chance

by running out the clock by running behind Clark for a series of plays until reaching midfield.

The other tackle is Oklahoma's Mike Vaughan, At 6-5, 285, Vaughan was the biggest lineman of his time. The biggest of his many blocks sprang Horace Ivory for the winning touchdown against Nebraska in 1975 when both teams were seeking the national championship that was awarded to Oklahoma after the bowls.

Defensively, the series has featured so many outstanding linemen that Cletus Fischer, offensive line coach at Nebraska throughout this period, said: "You will be wrong regardless of who you pick."

Leaving off one Outland recipient (Nebraska tackle Larry Jacobson, 1971) and one Lombardi recipient (Oklahoma nose guard Tony Casillas, 1985) illustrates Fischer's point.

Remember, this is not a contest of medals but rather a salute to those who played the best. The Steve Davis of defense is Oklahoma tackle Keith Gary. A junior college transfer, Gary did not have a career to match his talent. But he had outstanding games against Nebraska in 1979 and 1980.

Gary's companions in the defensive line validated their reputations in the series. Lee Roy Selmon, 1975 recipient of the Outland and Lombardi, was a matchless tackle. Nose guard Rich Glover, who won the Outland and Lombardi in 1972 and

probably deserved them in 1971, delivered the most dominating defensive performance of the series in 1971 when he plundered the Sooners' inside attack.

Willie Harper was overshadowed by teammate Glover in the 1971 game but the amazingly fast Harper's ability to contain Greg Pruitt's sweeps was no less impressive. Harper was a consummate end. Jimbo Elrod was the only other end of this period to approach Harper's level.

Bob Devaney once said he thought, overall, Nebraska's backs and linemen equalled or perhaps surpassed Oklahoma's. But he gave the Sooners a clearcut edge in linebackers and defensive backs.

The selections here are consistent with Devaney's view. Rod Shoate, who mauled the Cornhuskers for three years with sideline-to-sideline strikes, and Brian Bosworth, only halfway through his career but the subject of raves from Nebraska coaches, are the linebackers.

Randy Hughes, a picturesque safety who completed an all-star career by making three interceptions against Nebraska in 1974, is the strong safety.

Free safties are required to make difficult and numerous plays against the wishbone. One reason Texas has consistently stopped Oklahoma is the extraordinary number of NFL-bound free safties the Longhorns have thrown at the Sooners. But no free

safety ever played a better game against OU than Brett Clark in 1984.

Curiously, this has not been a series for cornerbacks to shine, at least not for long. Two of the series' most improbable heroes were cornerbacks who made goal line plays that saved victories. Neil Harris batted away two straight passes in the final seconds to hold off Oklahoma in 1983, and Brian Hall made a fourth down tackle at the one to hold off Nebraska in 1984, when the Cornhuskers out-gained OU, 373 yards to 201, and were, Barry Switzer said, "the better team and probably the best team in the country."

But for game-long or career excellence the choices are the OU pair of Kenith Pope and Jerry Anderson. Pope held Rodgers to three receptions in 1972, made two interceptions and broke up four passes. Anderson played in only one Nebraska game — 1975 — but made so many outstanding and punishing plays that OU secondary coach Bobby Proctor said, "It was the greatest game by a cornerback I ever saw."

Kickers rarely influenced the OU-Nebraska series. Rick Fulcher rates the nod as placekicker for his 41-yard field goal that climaxed Oklahoma's rally to win, 17-14, in 1972. Some of the better punters had poor games in the series. An exception was Nebraska's Scott Livingston, who was selected on the basis of his 43-yard average in the 1984 game.

Moments He Remembers...

Best Game: 1971, when Nebraska won, 35-31, and the two teams were in a world of their own.

Best Offensive Team Performance: Oklahoma in 1974, with 482 yards, all rushing, in 28-14 victory.

Best Defensive Team Performance: Oklahoma in 1973, when Nebraska was held to 174 yards and crossed midfield only once, on a pass reception that ended in a lost fumble, in 27-0 Sooner victory.

Best Offensive Performance by Individual: Quarterback Jack Mildren, OU, with 318 yards in 1971

Best Defensive Performance by Individual: Nose guard Rich Glover, Nebraska, in 1971.

Most Memorable Play: Johnny Rodgers' 72-yard punt return touchdown in 1971.

Most Notable Fumble Recovery: By Nebraska strong safety Jim Pillen after Billy Sims fumbled at Cornhusker three-yard line in final minutes of 17-14 upset that cost OU the 1978 national championship.

Best Performance by Unheralded Player vs. Superstar: Offensive tackle Jerry Arnold, OU, vs. John Dutton in 1973.

Best Trick Play: Guard Randy Schleusener, Nebraska, scoring on 15-yard run in 1979.

Most Improbable Hero: Woodie Shepard, OU, in 1976, when third team halfback threw fleaflicker pass to set up winning touchdown.

Best Performance by Reserve: Split end Tinker Owens, OU

freshman, who came off bench in second half to catch five passes for 108 yards and spark 17-14 comeback in 1972.

Most Impressive Touchdown Run: Marcus Dupree, OU, 86 yards in 1982.

Most Consistently Effective Unsung Runner: Any Nebraska fullback, namely Maury Damkroger, Andra Franklin and Mark Schellen.

Classiest Display of Sportsmanship: Bob Devaney and his assistants after Nebraska was upset in 1972, Devaney's final home game.

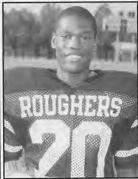
Most Dejected Sight: Nebraska defensive coordinator Monte Kiffin so crestfallen he had to be helped off the field by players after OU's comeback in 1976 at Lincoln.

Second Most Dejected Sight: Billy Sims, in the dressing room after Nebraska's upset victory in 1978, suggesting his fumble "cost me the Heisman (he was wrong) and the team the national championship (he was right)."

Barry Switzer's Most Moving Reaction: Crying in the press box after OU's 1972 victory, seven days after he buried his murdered father, and saying, "I wish Daddy could have seen this."

Most Surprised VIPs: Nebraska Gov. Bob Kerrey and actress Debra Winger, exiting the stadium following Oklahoma's upset victory in 1984, asking strangers for an explanation of how the Cornhuskers lost. ◆











George Achola

Glen Bell

Brian Brown

Tim Herman

Mike Gaddis

Some things never change! Or do they? Well, in the state of Texas they don't — not when it comes to high school football, anyway.

Those high school football factories are certainly doing better than the oil industry in that state. You can still support the entire Southwest Conference and help a bunch of other folks by just signing the wealth of prep talent in the Lone Star State. That's the case year in and year out.

But, things do change.

Barry Switzer has said more than once that the state of Oklahoma has more high school talent than any of the other five states in the Big Eight. The Sooners have converted that home-grown talent into the hearts of teams that have won six national championships and 10 of the last 13 conference titles.

The recipe has been simple for the Sooners: get the best close to home, then go after specific needs elsewhere.

But, once again, things are a little different this year. "I think there are only two players in Oklahoma that everyone is sure of as far as being a future college standout," said one talent sleuth. "And that's very unusual."

Now Nebraska is another matter. There usually aren't a lot of high school All-Americans coming from the Cornhusker State. The Huskers have used other ingredients to rise to the top — the best walkon program in the nation, an outstanding redshirt system and a very effective out-of-state talent search.

But, things have changed!

"On paper, this is an outstanding year in Nebraska," said new NU on-campus recruiting chief Dave Gillispie. "There are more players on paper that everyone knows about. There appears to be a very good number of quality prospects. This should be an outstanding year for Nebraska high school talent."

Five members of the Big Eight made waves nationally in recruiting last winter. Oklahoma led the pack with a good blend of talent from its own back yard as well as Texas, Florida, Michigan, California, Colorado and Louisiana. Colorado had a great year at home, in California and elsewhere. Missouri kept the big names in its

own state for a change. Oklahoma State took a few plumbs away from Oklahoma in the Sooner State, then really hit the jackpot in Texas again. And Nebraska used a couple of late signees to boost a class that was already high on quality to a level more consistent with what the Huskers usually sign.

The success of Big Eight teams — as well as UCLA, LSU, Iowa and others — in the state of Texas should make for even more competition for those Lone Star stars this winter. Of the 30 members of *The Dallas Morning News* Top 30 in 1986, 13 left the Southwest Conference. Only 13 TOTAL left the league the three prior years. Oklahoma State signed eight of the

Top 30 in the Dallas area alone! But the recruiting efforts won't be centered completely around the Big Eight's big neighbor to the south.

When you go to Colorado, all you hear about is Scott Lockwood. This speedy running back is about to become a legend in the Rockies.

And just visit Omaha Central High School some day during the next few months. You're going to hear talk about the best running back produced in the state of Nebraska since the early 1960s when a guy by the name of Gale Sayers was performing his magic act. Incidentally, Sayers attended Omaha Central before going on to greatness at the University of Kansas

Running Backs Top

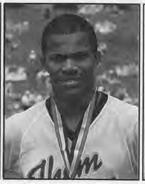
By Al Eschbach

Blue Chip Super 25

Name, High School	Pos	Ht	Wt	40
George Achola, Omaha Creighton Prep	RB-DB	5-11	190	4.5
Norman Balentine, St. Louis Hazelwood East	L	6-7	265	5.0
Glen Bell, Muskogee, Okla.	RB	5-10	180	4.6
Brian Brown, Indianola (Neb.) Republic Valley	L	6-6	230	4.9
Ivy Lee Brown, Palestine, Tx.	RB	6-2	210	4.5
Jo Jo Brown, Cypress (Tx.) Fairbanks	LB	6-2	210	4.6
Ty Detmer, San Antonio Southwest	QB	6-1	170	4.7
Stacy Dillard, Clarksville, Tx.	OL	6-7	285	4.8
Leodis Flowers, Omaha Central	RB	6-0	195	4.5
Mike Gaddis, Midwest City (Okla.) Carl Albert	RB	6-2	195	4.5
James Harris, East St. Louis (III.) Lincoln	QB-DE	6-7	227	4.8
Tim Herman, Lincoln (Neb.) Southwest	LB	6-6	240	4.8
Charles Johnson, Springfield (Mo.) Central	L-LB	6-3	250	4.6
Darren Lewis, Dallas Carter	RB	5-11	193	4.45
Scott Lockwood, Boulder (Colo.) Fairview	RB	6-0	190	4.4
Russ McCullough, Olathe (Ks.) South	OL	6-8	265	5.0
Gerald Mitchell, Crane, Tx.	RB	6-2	195	4.5
Kerwin Price, East St. Louis (II.) East	QB	6-2	200	4.6
Anthony Ray, Wharton, Tx.	RB	6-2	210	4.5
Tim Ryan, Kansas City (Mo.) Rockhurst	LB-TE	6-3	235	4.75
Fallon Wacasey, Kansas, Okla.	TE DB	6-8 6-0	225 178	4.9
Jim Watkins, Olathe (Ks.) North	WR	6-2	180	4.4
Jamal West, Tulsa Washington	DE	6-5	222	4.7
Alfred Williams, Houston Jones	L	6-4	245	5.1
Don Wright, Columbia (Mo.) Hickman	L	0-4	240	0.1











Horace Thompson

Anthony Ray

Terry Thomas

Fallon Wacasey

Jamal West

and the National Football League.

In Oklahoma you hear the names of running backs Glen Bell and Mike Gaddis. They are sure-shot blue chippers. But in the next breath someone will start telling you about another running back, Tony Brooks, who could be better than both.

A raid further south in Texas will produce nothing but quality. It's hard to keep secrets these days in the Lone Start State. What do they have to offer this year? Nothing special. Just an amazing menu of offensive linemen, defensive linemen, wide receivers, tight ends, quarterbacks, halfbacks, more halfbacks, fullbacks,

linebackers and defensive backs.

Missouri is always a little mysterious. "The reason is because sometimes the St. Louis talent is harder to evaluate than other areas," said one Big Eight recruiter.

But there are some very special athletes in the Show Me State. One of those is lineman Charles Johnson of Springfield Central. He's 6-foot-5, 250 pounds and runs a 4.6 40. Yes, that is special. And across the road in East St. Louis all the big schools know about quarterbacks Kerwin Price and James Harris. Harris, who cavorts at Lincoln High School, might get the award as the biggest quarterback around. He's 6-

7 and 227 pounds.

And when you go into Kansas City, the name Tim Ryan is mentioned with enthusiasm. Ryan is from powerhouse Rockhurst High. That is a system that has made both Oklahoma and Nebraska very

happy over the years.

The list of the Blue Chips Super 25 was selected after talks with various recruiting coordinators and assistant coaches in the Big Eight and Southwest Conference. Also, numerous high school coaches voiced their opinions as to the best players in their areas. Being chosen does not guarantee any of these players a scholarship offer next winter. But they've already shown a lot of potential, or the recruiters wouldn't be talking about them. There will always be, of course, a flock of players who have not yet made their mark, but will do so with great senior seasons.

Picking a Super 25 is no easy task. But here is the elite class of 1986-87 from Big Eight Country and the state of Texas.

The running back crop is so impressive that it's almost impossible to believe. There are so many blue chip backs in this part of the country that a lot of folks are going to be claiming they've got a franchise player. And they might all be right!

Let's start in Omaha. Please don't forget the name Leodis Flowers. You know recruiters aren't going to forget it! How good is he? Just listen to his high school

coach William Reed:

"If there's someone better in the country, I'd like to see him. This guy is the best I've ever seen. And I've been watching high school games on Fridays, college games on Saturdays and the pros on Sunday."

This gifted runner from Central High is 6-foot, 195 and runs a 4.5 in the 40. He rushed for 1,765 yards in nine games and averaged over 10 yards per carry. Flowers scored 22 touchdowns in 1985. He started in basketball, where he averaged 12 points and eight assists, and long jumped 23-5 last spring in track.

"I think Leodis is the best back to come out of this area since Gale Sayers," Reed continued. "He cuts like O.J., but his style is more like Sayers. He has more speed, however. He'll juke people or he'll simply

Big Eight Blue Chip List

Blue Chip Second 25

Name, High School	Pos	Ht	Wt	40
Brian Booerboom, Colorado Springs Dougherty	L	6-7	245	5.1
Tony Brooks, Tulsa Washington	RB	6-2	215	4.47
Ricky Davis, Omaha Creighton Prep	DB	6-0	182	4.45
Quinton Evans, Tulsa Washington	NG	6-2	230	4.8
Terence Hall, Denver Manual	DL	6-4	245	4.8
Chris Hatcher, Council Bluffs (Ia.) Jefferson	TE	6-3	215	4.7
Smith Holland, Shawnee Mission (Ks.) West	TE-OL	6-4	220	5.3
Todd Keene, Cypress (Tx.) Fairbanks	L	6-5	265	5.1
Robert Kirksey, Pattonville, Mo.	WR-DB	6-2	185	4.6
Greg Lakin, Cypress (Tx.) Fairbanks	L	6-4	250	5.0
John Lindmark, Kansas City (Mo.) Lee Summitt	L	6-4	265	5.3
Dan Lohmeier, Omaha Creighton Prep	TE	6-4	215	4.8
Marcus Lowe, Houston North Brook	ī	6-2	260	4.8
Matt McCall, Lufkin, Tx.	Ī	6-8	285	5.3
Chad McMillian, Katy, Tx.	Ĩ.	6-5	258	5.3
Chris Melson, Ada, Okla.	DB	5-11	175	4.5
Matt Morgan, Lyons (Neb.) Northeast	L	6-5	265	5.1
*Kenyon Rasheed, Kansas City (Mo.) Rockhurst	RB	5-11	223	4.6
Jordy Reynolds, Houston Stratford	NG-LB	6-3	235	4.7
Shannon Rooney, Bloomfield, Ia.	QB	6-1	183	4.6
Randy Simmons, McKinney, Tx.	FB	6-0	200	4.6
Joel Steed, Hinkley, Colo.	DL	6-3	275	5.1
Anthony Taylor, Kansas City (Ks.) Wyandotte	TE	6-4	210	4.7
Terry Thomas, Omaha Burke	WR	5-11	165	4.4
David Turner, Clinton, Ia.	L	6-4	240	5.1
*Will be a justice in 1006				

*Will be a junior in 1986.







Derrick White



Bobby Rice



Darrell Wiggins



David Jackson

run over them. Everyone in the country knows about him. He could wind up any-

If Flowers weren't around, George Achola of Creighton Prep would be grabbing all the headlines in Omaha. This 5-11, 195-pounder with 4.5 speed helped lead one of the nation's best prep teams to an unbeaten record by rushing for 1,333 yards on 215 carries. He averaged 6.2 yards a carry and scored 15 TDs.

"George is being recruited as a running back, but his best position may be in the defensive backfield," says coach Tom Jaworski. "He bench presses 300 pounds and runs a legitimate 22.1 in the 200 meters.

Achola was a first-team All-State selection as a junior.

And then it's on to Oklahoma. Sooner and Cowboy assistant coaches would like to keep Mike Gaddis (6-2, 195, 4.5) of Midwest City Carl Albert and Glen Bell (5-91/2, 180, 4.6) of Muskogee secrets. That's not going to happen. They are ranked as the top pre-season players in Oklahoma. Take your pick. A lot of colleges would like to!

Gaddis has it all — size, speed and great instincts. "He runs a 4.5 40, but he runs that with pads on," says coach Alton Miller. "He doesn't slow down when he gets the equipment on. He's the best broken field runner I've ever seen in high school. He's the nearest thing to Gale Sayers I've seen. He can be great. I think he can be in a class with O.J. I wouldn't trade him for Bell of Muskogee."

Gaddis rushed for 1,030 yards and an 8.3 average, despite playing in a backfield which featured another game-breaker at halfback - graduated senior Kenneth Lee. Gaddis missed some time late in the year with a twisted ankle.

Bell led his Muskogee team to the Class 5A finals last year. He rushed for over 2,000 yards and averaged over six yards a carry.

"He can do it all," praised coach Ron Freeman. "He can run inside because of his strength and he can run outside because of his speed and moves. I think he can be a great college player. He's very strong. He bench presses 270 pounds."

The talk of the town (or the entire state) in Colorado is Lockwood. He was the best back in the state as a junior when he rushed for 1,967 yards for an 8.4 average. He was also busy scoring 18 TDs and had a total of 294 yards in punt returns. He has run the 60-yard dash in 6.2 and bench presses 250 pounds.

"I played three years against Terry Miller (former Oklahoma State All-American) when he was in high school," said rival coach Brian McGregor of Arvada West. "I would have to say that Lockwood, in my opinion, is even a better prospect.'

Now it's time to mosey on down to Texas. When you cross the Red River, you'll see nothing but an abundance of great running back prospects. So what else is new?

You'll get a lot of arguments trying to say who's best. It's a tough question to answer. How about Darren Lewis (5-101/2, 193, 4.45) of Dallas Carter, or Gerald Mitchell (6-2, 195, 4.5) of Crane? Or there's Anthony Ray (6-2, 210, 4.5) of Wharton. And we don't want to forget Ivy Lee Brown (6-2, 210, 4.5) of Palestine.

What did Lewis do as a junior? He gained 996 yards. Well, that might not be that impressive. But the fact that he did it in just five games is astonishing! He broke a small bone in his ankle after his fast start, which included over 300 yards in one game. Lewis rushed for 1,675 yards as a

"I think he's the best back in America," says coach Freddy James. "He has power, quickness and good agility. He's pretty tough in the open field. I think he can play at any college. He'll remind you of Walter Payton, except he's faster than Payton."

Ray is big and fast. He used his frame to gain 1,662 yards on 275 carries a year ago. He also excels in basketball and track. He has run a 10.6 in the 100 meters.

"A lot of people around here who saw Eric Dickerson in high school say that's who Anthony reminds them of," said Wharton coach Mark Weaver. "A coach at Arkansas saw films of Anthony and he said that he never saw Dickerson in high school, but Anthony runs the way Dickerson does now in the pros."

Mitchell is probably the top prospect in West Texas. Nebraska coaches have their fingers crossed, since they signed Crane's Kenny Walker last February. Whoever signs this latest jewel will have a lot to celebrate.

Last year Mitchell rushed for 1,438 yards for a 7.2 average and scored 21 touchdowns. He has a vertical leap of 39 inches and keeps the Crane basketball fans in a fever pitch with his two-hand dunks. He has run a 48.5 split on the mile relay

"He's as good as anyone I've ever seen," coach Ricky White says. "He's not just a straight-away runner. He possesses great balance and a nice change of speed. He possesses some things that only God could give you. He's comparable to anyone I've seen.

There isn't any doubt about the ability of Brown, either. The biggest question mark is his classroom work. "It will be nip and tuck as to whether or not he'll qualify," said one Big Eight assistant. "But you have to recruit him because he is so talented.'

Brown has a vertical leap of 35 inches and pulls 360 pounds on a leg sled. "You don't see many come along like him very often." says former Texas A&M coach Tom Wilson, who is now at Palestine. "He is a great talent. He's fast, strong and has a great knack for running.'

The best quarterback in this area of the country? It would be difficult to pick against Ty Detmer of San Antonio Southwest. In fact, it would be very hard to find an athlete who does more for his school's athletic department than Detmer.

Okay, you ready to see what he does? Last year he threw for a whopping 3,521 yards with a 60 percent completion mark. That was good for 36 touchdowns. But get ready for the good stuff! Detmer started in basketball and was All-District after averaging 13.5 points a game. There's more. He led the district in hitting during the baseball season with a .565 average and managed a league mark of 4-0 as a pitcher. This tale isn't over. Detmer was the No. 1 golfer on the golf team. There's more. He ran the hurdles in track. Admittedly, that was his worst sport. But what we











Ricky Davis

Chris Melson

Edmond Kenworthy

Tony Brooks

Rob Davies

have here is a legend that is still growing!

"I would say it's nice to coach Ty," says father Sonny Detmer, who is the head man at Southwest. "And he's an A student."

And let's not forget that Ty Detmer is the No. 1 quarterback prospect in Texas. That says a lot!

It also says a lot when you high school program has won 40 consecutive games. And that's what East St. Louis has accomplished, being named the No. 1 high school football team in the nation the last two years by *U.S.A. Today*.

The ringleader of the squad a year ago was quarterback Kerwin Price (6-2, 200, 4.6). He passed for 1,500 yards and fired 18 TD passes. The touchdowns tied a record by another East St. Louis All-American—Ronnie Cameron, expected to be the starter at Missouri this year as a sophomore.

"As a sophomore, Kerwin played tailback and gained 862 yards (with Cameron at quarterback)," explained coach Bob Shannon, "and I was surprised how well and quickly he made the adjustment to quarterback. He did an excellent job throwing the ball. He threw only four interceptions. Arizona is saying they're recruiting him as a passing quarterback. Arkansas says they want him for their wishbone."

And what about receivers for those passes? Well, it would be difficult to find two better in the high school circles than tight end Fallon Wacasey (6-8, 225, 4.9) of Kansas, Okla., and Jamal West (6-2, 180, 4.4) of Tulsa Washington.

Wacasey is going to be recruited by all of the biggies of college football. They like his athletic ability and they like his 3.8 grade average. He had 27 receptions for 655 yards and eight TDs as a junior. He also latched onto five extra point receptions. He was a basketball standout, averaging 22 points a game.

He'll be 240 pounds before the season begins, and I bet he weighs around 250 or 260 before he graduates next fall," says skipper John Hanna. "He'll be an all-stater in basketball, but I think his future is in football. I think some day he can play in the NFL. He has unbelievable hands. And he is incredible when he gets in the open field. It's just about impossible to bring

him down. He's a franchise player."

Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, Nebraska, Illinois, Iowa, Texas, UCLA, Florida, Arkansas and Florida State are all trying to get into the picture with this giant receiver.

West is perhaps the top talent from a Booker T. Washington program that has more talent than any other high school team in the state of Oklahoma year in and year out. He's another who will likely be an all-stater in basketball. He was the spark on a team which won the Class 5A state basketball championship. But football should be his sport in college. He used his athletic ability to catch 32 passes good for 10 TDs last fall as the Hornets seemed destined for another state title until ambushed by Bell and Muskogee in the semis.

"He has the greatest ability to catch a football of anyone I have coached," says Larry McGee, master of the Washington powerhouse.

There is no shortage of talented linemen when you scope the Big Eight recruiting grounds.

Making the Super 25 in the line category are Russ McCullough (6-8, 265, 5.0) of Olathe (Ks.) South; Stacy Dillard (6-7, 285, 4.8) of Clarksville, Tex.; Norman Balentine (6-7, 265, 5.0) of St. Louis Hazelwood East; Don Wright (6-4, 245, 5.0) of Columbia (Mo.) Hickman; Charles Johnson (6-3, 250, 4.6) of Springfield (Mo.) Central; and Brian Brown (6-6, 230, 4.9) of Indianola (Neb.) Republic Valley.

"He's an awesome blocker," coach Bud Wheeler says of McCullough. "He plays both ways for us, but I think he can be a dominant player as an offensive lineman in college. He'll play at 280 pounds. He says he has run a 4.9 40. But most of the time he runs a 5.0. He was dominating on an offense that set a lot of school records. And that was mainly because he just blows people away.

"Nebraska came in here and they usually will say that a lineman can go to school there, be redshirted and play his senior year, or possibly his junior season. But Charlie McBride came in here this year and said Russ could be a two- or three-year starter there."

Wright will be difficult for anyone to pry loose from the hometown Missouri Tigers. It would be worth the try, though. He has outstanding upper body strength and bench presses 350 pounds.

"He does a little bit of everything. He's a good blocker, he has quick feet and he's very intelligent," sums up Hickman coach Tom Travis. "He's getting quite a bit of attention from college coaches. Anyone with the numbers that he has is going to draw attention."

Balentine is rated by most as the No. 1 prospect in the St. Louis area this year. Last year Hazelwood East had defensive end Mark Keough (he signed with Missouri) who was drawing rave notices. This time around it should be Balentine.

"Last year he played defensive end. We had a couple of pretty big people at defensive end spots with Norman and Mark Keough. He has good lateral movement and blocks very well on offense. We're moving him to defensive tackle this year and I think he will do better. He'll probably be an offensive tackle in college. He has all of the ingredients," says coach Rick Gorzinski.

Dillard and Johnson have some unbelievable numbers. It's hard to imagine anyone as big as Dillard (6-7, 285) running a 4.840.

"He's just a great athlete," coach Lonnie Cooper will tell you. "He's a good basketball player and finished second in the state in both the discus and shot. He's quite agile. He can double-handed dunk a basketball. He has a good attitude and good grades. Everyone has been around here already. He's a can't miss player."

And so is Johnson. It takes him only 4.6 seconds to get his 6-3, 250-pound frame across 40 yards.

"I've been around 16 years and he's the best I've seen," opined coach Bill Stringer. "He's big, fast and strong. He starts at center for the basketball team. He runs on the 400-meter relay team in track. We timed him at 4.6 this spring in the 40. When colleges look at him on film, they all come away saying that he's a man playing with boys. He benches 325 pounds."

The biggest obstacle ahead for Johnson could be in the classroom, where he needs

to get his grades up to qualify.

The best lineman in Nebraska may be Brown. "There's no telling how good he'll get," said one recruiter. "They'll get him on that great Nebraska weight program and he'll be a killer offensive lineman in a couple of years.'

When you look at the linebackers and defensive ends on this list, you might glance at a couple and think they're defensive linemen in the NFL. There is abso-

lutely no shortage of height.

Some of the most highly recruited players in the country are included in this group - Tim Ryan (6-3, 235, 4.75) of Kansas City Rockhurst; Tim Herman (6-6, 240, 4.8) of Lincoln Southeast; Jo Jo Brown (6-2, 210, 4.6) of Cypress (Tx.) Fairbanks; Alfred Williams (6-5, 222, 4.7) of Houston Jones; and James Harris (6-7, 227, 4.8) of East St. Louis Lincoln.

Ryan is the magical name in Kansas City. In fact, he's become a magical name when it comes to national recruiting. Take your pick. He could be a standout

linebacker or tight end.

"He has great hands and is a great blocker," Rockhurst coach Tony Severino reports. "He blocks better than any tight end I've seen. He bench presses 350 pounds. He could start at some places as a freshman. If a school needs a tight end, that's what he'll be. Or if they need an inside linebacker, he'll play that. He could be a defensive tackle. He starts in basketball and had the No. 1 shot in track in Kansas City. Just about everyone has sent him something."

And then there's Herman. Don't look for him to leave Lincoln to go to college. Tom Osborne can't wait until he gets this prize on campus. And there are a variety of reasons, with the best being that 6-6, 240pound frame to go along with the 4.8 speed. He is one of the best high school basketball players in Nebraska, and plays

on the state's AAU team.

"He has great natural instinct to go along with that size," says coach Chuck Mizerski. "He's the best player I've had in 18 years. He's very aggressive. He can play numerous positions - defensive down line, offensive line or linebacker. That's what makes him so valuable.'

Many say the best linebacker in the Lone Star State is Brown. You won't get an argument from his coach, Warren Trahan.

"He's the closest thing to Darrell Reed that I've had," he said, comparing Brown to his former student who made All-Big Eight at Oklahoma as a freshman and sophomore and is now an All-American candidate as a junior. "He plays hard every down. He's all over the field. His only problem is that he sometimes doesn't stay at home on the field. He bench presses 330 pounds. That shows you his strength. He could be a great one."

And so could Williams. Jones High was nipped twice last year by less than a touchdown by one of the best teams in the nation - Houston Yates. What kind of a year did Williams have? Well, he was named All-District Defensive Player of the Year. And remember, he played in the same district as Yates All-American linebacker Melvin Foster.

"Normally, when you play against a veer offense you need three defensive players to take away the basics," coach James Humphrey began. "With Alfred it's a little different. He's so quick he can take the dive man and the quarterback. There were plays when he just wrapped his arms around both of them. We think he'll be a great defensive end for us this year. There are colleges who are recruiting him in basketball. He averaged 17 a game last year. But I really think he'll be a big-time football player when he gets to college."

And so should Harris. At 6-7, 227, you will have a hard time finding a bigger quarterback. He passed for over 800 yards and rushed for 300 more. He threw 13

touchdown passes.

But it's at defensive end where Harris really gets noticed. He intercepted four passes and knocked down seven others. "He could be a tight end, a defensive back or be a linebacker-defensive end in college," states Lincoln mentor Jimmy Adams. "Everyone who has seen him on film wants him. He can become a great player. He can do it all."

And that's what people are saying about

Iim Watkins (6-0, 178, 4.5) as a defensive back at Olathe (Ks.) North. He did a good job on offense, rushing for 540 yards and a 4.8 average per carry. His athletic talent is endless. He also stands out in basketball and baseball.

"His dad wants him to pursue a career in basketball, his mom wants him to play baseball and I think Jim wants to play football," laughs his coach, Gene Weir. "He averaged 21 points a game in basketball. He has a vertical leap of 39 inches.

"He's easily the most gifted athlete we've had come through here, and we've had some good ones. He's projected as a cornerback in college. He could be a great one there because of his leaping ability. He's being recruited by everyone in the country. He could be a big-time player."

That's a look at the Super 25. Last year's Supers included such blue chippers as Van-Zant, Foster, Jim Dadiotis, Brad Hinkle, Keough, Charles Arbuckle, Robert Lee Connor, Rob Dryer, Gerry Gdowski, Quinn Grovey, Brian Jones, Harvey Williams and others. It's a good bet that this year's group will receive just as much recruiting attention.

But there's not much of a drop-off when you get to the Second 25. Keep tabs on these players during the coming season. And when recruiting begins to get hot, you're going to be hearing quite a bit more

about them. •

Special Recognition

Bobby Raynor, Idabel, Okla., LB, 6-0, 205, 4.75; Darrell Wiggins, Kansas, Okla., RB-LB, 6-2, 190, 4.6; Monty Hatcher, Tulsa Memorial LB, 6-2, 210, 4.75; Loy Wilson, Claremore, Okla., DL-FB, 6-2, 250, 5.0; Edmund Kenworthy, Hominy, Okla., TE-LB, 6-3, 230, 4.8; Joe Don McAdams, Atoka, Okla., LB, 6-2, 200, 4.7; Rob Davies, Owasso, Okla., LB, 6-1, 220, 4.7; Dalton Young, Sayre, Okla., OL, 6-1, 269, 5.2; Wayne Powers, St. Louis DeSemmet, L, 6-3, 225, 5.0; Mike Wayweather, St. Louis County Day, RB, 5-9, 170, 4.55; Bob Christian, St. Louis McCour North, RB, 6-0, 200, 4.6; Gary Clark, St. Louis University City, RB, 6-0, 180, 4.6; Rodney Penson, St. Louis Vashon, LB, 6-0, 220, 4.75; Kevin Conway, St. Louis St. James, TE, 6-4, 200, 4.7; Tom Roth, St. Louis Marquette, TE, 6-5, 210, 4.7; John Hottok, Leavenworth, Ks., OL, 6-4, 240, 4.9; Mike Hall, Kansas City Harmon, OL, 6-3, 240, 5.2; Anthony Rosenthal, Kansas City Harmon, RB, 6-0, 178, 4.6; Jim Shanahan, Broomfield, Colo., LB, 6-2, 215, 4.7; Tim Fielder, Broomfield, Colo., DB, 6-4, 195, 4.6; Ollie Payne, Denver Manuel, QB, 5-11, 170, 4.6; John Russo, St. Louis Hazelwood Central, OG, 6-0, 235, 4.9; Harvey Colon, Kansas City Washington, DB, 60, 185, 4.6; Jeff Lenser, Omaha Burke, QB, 6-2, 190, 4.9; Steve Perkins, Arvada West, Colo., RB-DB, 5-11, 173, 4.6; Rodney Hampton, Houston Kashmere, RB-DB, 6-1, 190, 4.5; Billy Dykes, Bay City, Tex., DE-TE, 6-3, 250, 4.8; Tim Craig, Houston Memorial, OL, 6-5, 250, 5.0; Murray Garrett, Houston Springwood, L. 6-4, 250, 4.9; Johnny Eaton, Houston Waltrip, DL, 6-3, 227, 4.6; Joe King, Dallas South Oak Cliff, QB, 6-0, 185, 4.5; Billy Sims, Galveston Ball, NG, 6-1, 270, 5.0; Arthur Mobley, Dallas Lincoln, LB, 6-3, 215, 4.7; Jason Love, Dallas MacArthur, LB, 6-3, 200, 4.7; Erbie Bowser, Tyler Lee (Tex.), L, 6-5, 270, 5.1; William Doctor, El Paso Andres, RB-DB, 5-11, 170, 4.55; Robin Pyles, Amarillo Palo Duro, L. 6-3, 275, 5.1; Mike McKinney, Perryton, Tex., FB-LB, 6-0, 205, 4.6; Pat Wilson, Odessa (Tex.) Permian, RB, 6-1, 180, 4.55; Jordy Reynolds, Houston Stratford, LB-NG, 6-3, 235, 4.7; Derrick White, Lufkin, Tex., LB, 6-1, 205, 4.7; Bobby Rice, Lufkin, Tex., C, 6-3, 242, 5.3; John Jerke, Lufkin, Tex., OL, 6-5, 231, 4.8; David Jackson, Tulsa. Washington, Ok., DB, 5-10, 180, 4.6; Thompson, Tulsa Vann Horace Washington, Ok., L, 6-4, 230, 4.8. ◆

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a story listing the Top 100 high school recruits for 1987, as selected by the National College Recruiting Association out of Woodland Hills, Calif. This list was compiled in the spring and is based on previous performances in high school and recommendations of high school and college coaches and sports journalists in various states. The list does not necessarily present the views of University Sports Publications, Inc., on which players will be recruited next winter.)

Touted running backs and linebackers headline the prep senior prospect crop in the Big Eight Conference area this fall.

Ten of the nation's Top 100 high school seniors hail from the six Big Eight states, including pre-season All-America running backs Leodis Flowers of Omaha (Ne.) Central and Scott Lockwood of Boulder (Colo.) Fairview. The top linebackers appear to be Tim Ryan of Kansas City (Mo.) Rockhurst, Bobby Raynor of Idabel (Okla.) and Tim Herman of Lincoln (Ne.) Southeast.

Tack on the names of tight end Fallon Wacasey of Kansas (Okla.), offensive tackle Matt Morgan of Lyons (Ne.) Lyons-Decatur Northeast, two-way lineman John Lindmark of Lees Summitt (Mo.), two-way back Jim Watkins of Olathe (Ks.) North and running back Glenn Bell of Muskogee (Okla.) and the list of Top 100 nation preps from the region is completed.

Flowers is a three-sport athlete from the alma mater of former Kansas and Chicago Bears great Gale Sayers, and the comparisons are expected. The 6-foot, 190-pounder has clocked 4.45 seconds for 40 yards and 10.7 for 100 meters while long jumping 23-feet as a sophomore. Playing in games last fall, he rushed for 1,765 yards and 21 touchdowns while averaging 207 yards in total offense per outing.

Lockwood stands out like a sore thumb among Colorado preps. The same height and weight as Flowers, he's timed 4.4 for the 40 and has bench pressed 350 pounds. In 10 games as a junior, he rushed for 1,967 yards and 19 TDs, and has gained 2,542 yards in two seasons.

Ryan is a two-way stalwart at traditionladen Rockhurst High. The 6-3, 235pound, three-sport performer was charted with 90 tackles last fall when he wasn't playing tight end and punting for a 40yard norm. He times 4.75 for 40 yards.

Raynor (6-0, 210) has averaged over 12 tackles a game the last two seasons while blending excessive strength with aggressiveness. As a freshman, he set a U.S. deadlift record of 600 pounds. He has also placed fifth in the discus throw at state competition, but finds time to play baseball, also. He times 4.7 for the 40.

Herman (6-5, 235) is also a three-sport performer, and has earned honors both as a defensive end and linebacker. He times 4.8 in the 40.

By Doug Huff



Leodis Flowers

Big Eight States Boast National Headliners

Wacasey (6-8, 220) is hard to miss on the football field or the basketball court, where he has earned all-star recognition. The 3.8 academic student also excels in track. A tight end with 4.9 speed in the 40 and exceptional hands, he hauled in 27 passes for 655 yards and eight TDs last fall and has a two-year total of 57 catches for 1,227 yards and 14 touchdowns.

Morgan (6-5, 277) appears to be another in a long line of interior linemen born and bred in the Cornhusker state. An exceptional wrestler and also a trackman, this tackle has timed 5.2 for 40 yards and blends quickness with strength and blocking technique.

Lindmark (6-4, 250) impressed both at offensive tackle and nose guard as a junior and is working hard to improve his strength to complement his 5.1 speed for 40 yards.

Watkins (6-0, 178) is one of the most feared preps in Kansas. Blessed with 4.4 speed for 40 yards and 10.7 clockings for 100 meters, he is a threat as an offensive performer, kick returner or in the secondary. The three-sport standout also averaged 21 points a game in basketball.

Bell (5-10, 185) provided the offensive punch for the Muskogee ground attack last fall, helping lead the Roughers to the Class 5A state finals. He has great balance and strength and the quickness to run inside or outside.

While Iowa isn't home to any of the Top 100 members, two of the top seniors in that state compete for the same school — Clinton. Dave Turner (6-4, 240) is an offensive tackle-defensive end with 5.1 speed. Also a top wrestler, Turner boasts 3.7 academic credentials. Teammate Kevin Hart (6-1, 210) is a two-way back who should be highly recruited. He has 4.8 speed in the 40.

On the national front, 10 states claim at least four members of the Top 100 elite. They are Texas, Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, Illinois, Florida, Arkansas, Georgia, New Jersey and New York.

State-by-state, here's the cream of the crop:

TEXAS

— Quarterback Ty Detmer (6-2, 170, 4.75) of San Antonio Southwest, a five-sport athlete with A-B grades who passed for a state record 3,551 yards and 36 TDs in 13 games last fall.

— Running back Darren Lewis (5-11, 192, 4.45) of Dallas Carter, a three-sport performer who rushed for over 1,000 yards as a sophomore, but missed five of 10 starts as a junior because of an injury. He still managed 909 yards rushing, including 309 in one game.

— Two-way tackle Stacy Dillard (6-7, 285, 4.9) of Clarksville, a three-sport standout with exceptional size and quickness and ability.

— Other Top 100 members include offensive tackle Matt McCall (6-8, 280, 5.2) of Lufkin; running back Ivory Lee Brown (6-1, 205, 4.6) of Palestine; linebacker Joe Brown (6-2, 215, 4.6) of Houston Cypress-Fairbanks; and defensive end Alfred Williams (6-5, 220, 4.6) of Houston Jones.

OHIO

— Running backs Carlos Snow (5-8, 195, 4.4) of Cincinnati Academy of Physical Education (CAPE) and Mike Delwiche (5-11, 190, 4.45) of Troy headline the list. Snow has timed 10.7 for 100 meters and bench pressed 350 pounds. In a 14-0 season last fall he rushed for 2,323 yards and scored 33 TDs. His three-year career includes 5,354 yards (10.5 per carry) and 76 TDs. Delwiche averaged 11.3 yards a carry as a junior when he gained 1,677 yards and scored 25 TDs. He also averaged 40.4 yards for 22 kickoff returns.

— Washington High of Massillon is a regular producer of gridiron talent, and linebacker Jerrod Vance (6-3, 241, 4.75) heads the current crop. Moeller High of Cincinnati annually sends several to Divi-



Matt McCall

Stacey Dillard



Bobby Raynor

Tim Ryan



Don



Lohmeier

sion I colleges, and fullback Steve Gahr (6-1, 235, 4.7) is the top candidate this fall.

Touted tight ends include Dave Diebolt (6-3, 235, 4.8) of Mayfield and Michael Boykin (6-3, 215, 4.5) of Dayton lefferson.

PENNSYLVANIA

- Greg Skrepenak (6-7, 270, 5.2) of Wilkes-Barre G.A.R., has been a threesport standout for four years, but his future appears to be as an interior lineman at a Top 20 college.

- Matt Blundin (6-7, 212, 4.8) is another three-sport standout whose coach feels is a prospect in football, basketball or baseball. The quarterback passed for over 1,300 yards as a junior and is attracting coast-to-coast college attention.

- Jeff Christy (6-3, 225, 4.8) is a nonstop football player for Freeport High. In 12 games last season he scored 204 points, including 26 touchdowns and six field goals — with a long boot of 43 yards. However, many colleges will be recruiting him as a linebacker.

- Two other western Pennsylvania products are Top 100 caliber, including quarterback-defensive back Washington (6-3, 190, 4.7) of Duquesne, and nose guard-linebacker Nelson Walker (6-3, 230, 4.8) of Monongahela Ringgold.

CALIFORNIA

 Long Beach Poly continues to produce top-flight talent with running back Leonard Russell (6-2, 210, 4.7) and defensive back Eugene Burkhalter (6-2, 180, 4.6) the current ones to watch.

Two-way tackle Scott Spalding (6-5, 245, 5.0) of El Toro and Scott Del Rio (6-5, 275, 5.1) of Perris head the interior line prospects.

Other Top 100 members include defensive back Melvin Pollard (6-3, 175, 4.6) of Wilmington Banning; two-way back Tommy Booker (6-1, 200, 4.6) of defending state poll champion Vista; and linebacker Corey Brown (6-2, 215, 4.7) of Inglewood Morningside.

ILLINOIS

- Two linemen from the Chicago Catholic League are atop this state's listing: Charles Collins (6-4, 260, 4.6) of Mendel Catholic, a sprinter-weightman in track, and Joe Allen (6-5, 260, 5.1) of St. Rita. Collins is a defensive whiz, while Allen likes to block.

- Three quarterbacks with exceptional promise include converted running back Kerwin Price (6-0, 200, 4.6) of U.S. poll champion East St. Louis, unbeaten the last three seasons; three-sport star Kent Graham (6-5, 215, 4.7) of Wheaton North; and Dave Mitidiero (6-7, 220, 4.8) of Lockport.

- Tight end Mike Everitt (6-3, 225, 4.65) of Schaumburg and wide receiver Nate Turner (6-1, 200, 4.5) of Chicago Mt. Carmel are others with Top 100 credentials.

ARKANSAS

- Terrance (JuJu) Harshaw (6-0, 205, 4.7) of North Little Rock Northeast is a four-sport standout with exceptional promise in football and baseball. The fullback-tailback-placekicker scored 178 points, including 24 TDs last fall while rushing for 1,306 yards from a fullback

- At Malvern High, linebacker Keith Traylor (6-4, 217, 4.7) doubles as a tight end, but some observers wouldn't be surprised to see him competing on future

Sundays.

- Two other exceptional prospects include wishbone quarterback Farron Hall (6-3, 190, 4.5) of Rison and two-way tackle MacKenzie Phillips (6-5, 255) of Springdale, son of ex-NFL lineman Lloyd Phillips.

FLORIDA

- Any Sunshine State listing of top prospects has to begin with Emmitt Smith (5-10, 190, 4.5), the four-year regular running back for Pensacola Escambia, the state Class 4A champion the last two seasons. Already the state's career rushing leader with 6,993 yards on 902 carries in 38 games, the well-built Smith has scored 78 touchdowns and 480 points with a year remaining. If he duplicates last season's totals of 2,826 yards on 358 carries and 33 TDs, he will break the all-time U.S. mark for carries and move into the No. 2 spot in total yardage.

- What Smith is to rushing, Terrence Barber (5-11, 170, 4.6) of Auburndale is to pass receiving. A football and basketball all-stater, Barber landed 81 passes for 1,180 yards and 16 TDs last fall. He reminds some observers of ex-Florida prep

Anthony Carter.

- The top prospect in the Miami area could be defensive safety-wide receiver Cedric McKinnon (6-4, 198, 4.7) of Coral Gables, the only junior on the Class 5A allstate unit last season. He's a "big-play" performer on offense, defense and kick re-

- Hollywood Hills High is home to possibly the most talented gridiron "athlete" in Clarence (C.J.) Jackson (6-3, 185), who plays quarterback, defensive back, wide receiver and running back at various times.

Among the linemen, Claude Jones (6-3, 260, 5.0) of Ft. Lauderdale Dillard and four-year anchor Brad Culpepper (6-3, 250, 5.0) of Tallahassee Leon stand at the head of the class.

GEORGIA

- Running back John Stewart (6-2, 205, 4.7) of Hinesville Bradwell Institute returns to take aim on his Class 4A season rushing mark of 2,186 yards (313 carries, 20 TDs) set as a junior. He's also a threesport performer.

— Another touted running back is Alphonso Ellis (5-10, 200, 4.5) of Thomasville, who rushed for 1,240 yards and averaged 31 yards per kick return last fall.

— In the trenches, defensive tackle David Rocker (6-4, 245, 4.75) of Atlanta Fulton and offensive tackle Bill Vandergrift (6-5, 265, 5.1) of Covington Newton County stand out. Rocker, a three-sporter who benches 350 pounds and has A-B grades, is a brother of Auburn's Tracey Rocker.

NEWJERSEY

— Defensive backs-wide receivers head this state's senior crop. Corey Booker (6-4, 220, 4.6) of Old Tappan is a versatile tight end-wide receiver-defensive backkick returner. Tony Kennedy (6-2, 205, 4.6) of Elizabeth High plays the same positions. Otis Kearney (6-0, 185, 4.6) of Toms River South is a returning all-state defensive back who also plays running back.

— The only junior on the first unit allstate last fall was place kicker Tom Wichta (5-11, 175) of Edison Bishop Ahr. He kicked a state record 12 field goals, including a 44-yarder.

— The top interior lineman appears to be massive Matt Maciolek (6-5, 305) of Willingboro.

NEWYORK

- Four skill position athletes headline the Empire State senior prospects. Threesport standout Warren Stith (5-11, 165, 4.7) of Hempstead hasn't quarterbacked a losing team (35-0-1) since the seventh grade, and the wishbone signal caller accounted for over 2,500 total offense yards the last two seasons. He's also a lacrosse standout and point guard on last season's 25-1 basketball team. Augusto (Gus) Palma (6-2, 190, 4.45) of Brookhaven Bellport is a promising wide receiver-defensive back-kick returner. Last fall he caught 22 passes for 558 yards and six TDs. Running backs King Rice (6-0, 180, 4.6) of Binghamton and Galen Foster (6-0). 185, 4.45) of Clifton Park Shenendehowa stand out. Rice is also a basketball All-America choice, and he starred on unbeaten football and basketball teams as a junior. Foster, a track sprinter, receives raves from all observers.

Other Top 100 selections include:

ALABAMA — Place kicker Philip Doyle (6-2, 195, 4.8) of Birmingham Huffman; running back-kick returner Larry Ware (5-10, 175, 4.5) of Montgomery Robert E. Lee; and, tight end Thomas Holmes (6-4, 205, 4.6) of Midfield.

ARIZONA — Running back Reggie McGill (5-10, 185, 4.5) of Phoenix St.

Mary's.

IDAHO — Two-way back Maury Toy (6-2, 205, 4.55) of Mountain Home.

INDIANA — Quarterback Don Hoog (6-4, 205, 4.8) of Brookville East Central and running back Vaughn Dunbar (6-0, 185, 4.5) of Fort Wayne Snider.

KENTUCKY — Tight ends Jeff Ellis (6-4, 215, 4.7) of Louisville Male and Frank Jacobs (6-5, 220, 4.7) of Newport Catholic. Ellis, son of ex-heavyweight boxing champ Jimmy Ellis, is a three-sport standout and also plays linebacker. Jacobs, a four-year, three-sport performer, also plays linebacker and defensive line.

MARYLAND — Fullback William Henry (6-2, 220, 4.5) of Frederick and running back Tyrone Jackson (5-10, 180, 4.5)

of Hyattsville DeMatha.

MICHIGAN — Linebacker-tight end Ricky Williams (6-4, 230, 4.8) of Detroit Henry Ford; wide receiver Anthony Cummings (5-10, 170, 4.5) of Detroit St. Martin de Porres; and linebacker Carlos Marino (6-4, 225, 4.7) of Detroit Central.

MINNESOTA — Center-defensive tackle Gary Isakson (6-4, 245, 5.1) of

Apple Valley

MISSISSIPPI — Two-way tackle Glenn Neely (6-5, 265) of Olive Branch; and defensive back James Proctor (6-3, 220, 4.7) of Jackson Pearl.

MASSACHUSETTES — Quarterback-athlete Willie Hicks (5-10, 175, 4.65) of Concord Concord-Carlisle; and quarterback Matt Rodgers (6-2, 175, 4.9) of

NEW HAMPSHIRE — Linebackerfullback Ryan Mihalko (6-2, 226, 4.7) of

Derry Pinkerton Academy.

NORTH CAROLINA — Quarter-backs Deems May (6-5, 205, 4.8) of Lexington and Brad Johnson (6-4, 200, 4.8) of Swannanoa Owen, plus tight end-offensive lineman Gene Houpe (6-4, 250, 5.1) of Statesville.

LOUISIANA — Quarterback-defensive back Mickey Joseph (5-10, 175, 4.5) of Marrero Archbishop Shaw and defensive lineman Matt Young (6-5, 265, 4.9) of

Baker.

SOUTH CAROLINA — Place kicker Collin Mackie (5-10, 155, 5.2) of Columbia Irmo; wide receiver-defensive back Freddie Renken (6-2, 180, 4.6) of Charleston Porter-Gaud; and linebacker Corey Miller (6-3, 220, 4.7) of Pageland Central.

TENNESSEE — Defensive back-running back Leroy Thompson (5-11, 205,

4.37) of Knoxville Austin-East.

VIRGINIA — Defensive backlinebacker Matt Darby (6-2, 195, 4.45) of Virginia Beach Green Run; defensive end Proctor Land (6-4, 220, 4.7) of Fairfax Robinson; and tight end Mark Adams (6-3, 225, 4.8) of Virginia Beach Kempsville.

WASHINGTON — Running back Clayton Harley (6-0, 195, 4.6) of Kirkland Juanita and two-way lineman Matt Dunning (6-5, 250, 5.1) of Eatonville.

WEST VIRGINIA — Nose guardoffensive tackle John Ray (6-9, 305, 5.2) of Charleston George Washington.

WISCONSIN — Linebacker John Derby (6-3, 220, 4.7) of Oconomowoc. ◆

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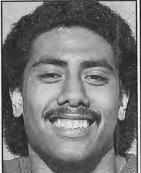
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Sal Aunese



Nigel Clay



Robert Lee Conner



Adrian Cooper

By Al Eschbach

Oklahoma, Colorado, OSU, Missouri and Nebraska rate among nation's best in recruiting wars.

The S	uper 2	6			
Name, High School	Pos	Ht	Wt	40	College
Sal Aunese, Oceanside (Ca.) Vista	QB	6-0	190	4.6	Colorado
Michael Brown, Cincinnati (Ohio) Princeton	WB	5-8	165	4.4	Iowa State
Vernon Brown, Del City, Ok.	RB	6-2	199	4.5	Okla. State
Tim Bruton, Houston Madison	TE	6-4	215	4.6	Missouri
Nigel Clay, Fontana, Ca.	OL	6-4	245	4.8	Oklahoma
Robert Lee Conner, Mangum, Ok.	L	6-5	270	4.9	Oklahoma
Adrian Cooper, Denver South	DE	6-4	215	4.6	Oklahoma
Rob Dryden, St. Charles, Mo.	OL	6-8	305	5.4	Missouri
J.J. Flannigan, Pomona, Ca.	RB	6-0	190	4.4	Colorado
Doug Glaser, Mesquite, Tx.	OL	6-7	290	5.3	Nebraska
James Goode, Houston Yates	DE	6-4	215	4.7	Oklahoma
Bernard Hall, Detroit Ford	QB	6-3	205	4.5	Oklahoma
Brad Hinkle, Olathe (Kan.) S.	DB	6-3	185	4.6	Kansas
Mark Keough, St. Louis Hazelwood E.	DE	6-7	245	4.8	Missouri
Dave McCloughan, Loveland, Colo.	RB	6-0	180	4.5	Colorado
Terrance Miller, Lewisville, Tx.	RB	6-1	200	4.5	Okla. State
Jeff Mills, Montclair, N.J.	LB	6-4	215	4.7	Nebraska
Ben Mitchell, Detroit Chadsey	OL	6-4	280	5.2	Iowa State
Darrin Muilenburg, Lakewood, Co.	OL	6-4	260	5.1	Colorado
Marvin Oglesby, Decatur (Ga.) Towers	LB	6-3	210	4.6	Okla. State
Zarek Peters, Ft. Bend (Tx.) Willowridge	DL	6-4	250	4.9	Oklahoma
Phillip Pryor, Sherman-Denison, Tx.	OL	6-4	270	5.2	Okla. State
Terry Rodgers, Nat'l City (Ca.) Sweetwater	RB	5-9	180	4.4	Nebraska
Tony VanZant, St. Louis Hazelwood	RB	6-1	190	4.4	Missouri
Kenny Walker, Crane, Tx.	DL	6-3	220	4.6	Nebraska
Jake Young, Midland (Tx.) Lee	OL	6-4	235	4.9	Nebraska

Let's turn the pages back. It was the early 1970s. The coach was Eddie Crowder. He would visit such places as Texas and California and tell high school All-Americans about the beauty of Colorado and the Rockies. The Boulder campus was one of the most scenic in the country. There seemed to be an air of mystery about the town

When Crowder finished his sales pitch he would wait a few days or a few months. He would wait to get his man and then bring him to the Rockies. It would simply be a four-year stop-over.

It was a time when Colorado was turning out players into the pro ranks just as quickly as Oklahoma and Nebraska. And it was a time when the Buffaloes had one of the top football programs in the nation. That was evidenced by a third-place na-

tional ranking in 1971 behind Nebraska and Oklahoma. And by a stunning upset of OU in 1972 that cost the Sooners a national title.

But most Colorado football fans figure the good old days were just fond memories. The Buffalo program slipped quickly when Crowder was forced to step down. Chuck Fairbanks, who saw that national title taken from his last OU team in 1972 by the Buffs, did not lead Colorado back to the mountain tops. Nor did Bill Mallory. And it appeared Bill McCartney would fare no better when he took over five years ago. People stopped coming to the games in Boulder. The beauty of the town was not magical enough to sway the top recruits any longer. The CU football program was in bad shape.

Then McCartney junked his wide open

passing game for the wishbone, kept his team healthy for most of the 1985 season and took the Buffs to a 7-4 regular season (good for a tie for third place in the Big Eight Conference) and a trip to the Freedom Bowl. Curiosity seekers began coming back to Folsom Field to see what was going on. And when the All-American recruits came to visit, the magic had reappeared. The Buffs once again discovered gold. Yes, the good old days were back again.

When you look back on the 1986 recruiting year in the Big Eight, you see some of the same old trends — Nebraska and Oklahoma loading up with some of the top prizes in the nation. And there were some surprises, like Missouri holding onto the best player in the country despite a 1-10 season. And Oklahoma State

putting together perhaps its best class ever, from top to bottom.

But the biggest shocker had to come out of the Rockies. A year ago Colorado coaches were trying to lure top recruits into Boulder after the Buffaloes had won only one of 11 games. Suddenly in the winter of 1986 they were selling the latest class of blue chips on the merits of a program on the upward swing. The mountains were still majestic. The campus was still beautiful. And the sales talk was convincing.

The three major recruiting services thought so, too. Joe Terranova, who has been around longer than any of the "experts", ranked Oklahoma fourth in the nation in recruiting success this past winter. He had Oklahoma State sixth, Missouri 15th and Colorado 16th. National High School Football, a service by Max Emfinger in Houston, rated Oklahoma 10th, Missouri 13th, OSU 15th, Colorado 25th and Nebraska 29th.

Super Preps, a California-based publication, rated OU fourth, Colorado 15th and OSU 19th.

A surprise in the rankings might be the exclusion of Nebraska from the top 10 or even top 20. But the Huskers came on strong later in the spring, after the ratings had already been compiled. And this 1986 Husker class is loaded with quality, if not quantity. The lack of greater numbers early in the chase kept the NU rating from being as high as it should have been.

Colorado's class may also wind up being better than the ratings services give it credit for. This class is star-studded. Few would have guessed a year ago at this time that the Buffs would come out of California with that state's top running back — one of the premier backs in'the nation. But that's what McCartney and his staff did when they brought home the signature of J. J. Flannigan. Terranova gives the 6-foot, 190-pounder from Pomona a four-star rating — his highest. Emfinger gives him a 9.15 rating out of a possible 10. He should challenge immediately for a starting job in that CU wishbone.

And talk of fitting nicely in the wishbone, the Buffs won a battle with Nebraska to sign the top option quarterback in California, Sal Aunese. Emfinger gives him a 9.56, and you don't have to go back far in the Big Eight to recall what option quarterbacks from California are capable of doing for a major college team (i.e., Jamelle Holieway at OU and Steve Taylor at NU). There were other fruitful stopovers in California and there were blue chippers to be had in Texas (lineman Arthur Walker and running back O. C. Oliver) and Missouri (running back Michael Simmons). And perhaps the most important ingredient to this recruiting year was the fact the Buffaloes kept most of the top Colorado talent at home.

Jim Dadiotis, an All-American

linebacker from Denver, went to Notre Dame. But one CU coach said the Buffs lost only one player in the state they really wanted, and that was defensive end Adrian Cooper, who chose Oklahoma a day after national signing date.

"I really thought we could have this type of year," said Buff recruiting coordinator Ron Vanderlinder. "We were able to show these players that we are a program on the move. We didn't travel during the season to watch players, like other programs did. But we kept in touch with them on the telephone. I think our staff was hard working. Coach Bill McCartney had everything well organized. And it helped when we brought these recruits in and they got to see one of the most beautiful campuses in the country.

"And I like what we did around home. We used to be killed by Nebraska in this state. But now we've gone three years without losing a prospect to Nebraska. We offered 15 players in the state scholarships and got 13 of them."

Still, the biggest prize of them all was the California gem named Flannigan. Using his 4.4 speed in the 40, he rushed for 1,479 yards and 19 touchdowns. He averaged 9.1 yards per carry. It didn't hurt the Buffs that assistant coach Oliver Luck had coached J. J. earlier in his career at Pomona.

There are other backs with blue chip pedigree who will get a good look-see as freshmen. Oliver was rated one of the best in Texas. And Simmons averaged 5.6 yards per carry at Kirkwood, Mo. Dave McCloughan of Loveland, Colo., however, is probably the Buffs' proudest catch. This 6-foot, 175-pounder with 4.4 speed is the son of former Nebraska and Oakland Raider standout Kent McCloughan, and he gained 2,734 all-purpose yards as a senior.

Aunese was the target of a heated recruiting war between Nebraska and Colorado. This 6-foot, 190-pounder visioned Husker sensation Taylor running the show the next three years in Lincoln. That helped push him into the Rockies, where the Buffs simply don't have a quality backup for Mark Hatcher. Aunese ran for 1,361 yards as a senior, with 13 touchdowns, and added 750 yards passing — good for seven more TDs.

And there were a bunch of fine linemen joining the CU camp. The ones who have drawn most of the rave notices are Darrin Muilenburg (6-4, 260, 4.9) of Lakewood, Colo.; Pete Harston (6-6, 240, 4.9) of Littleton; and tight end John Perak (6-6, 235, 4.8) of Sherman Oaks, Calif.

While Colorado provided the cinderella story in Big Eight recruiting, there were a lot more front page headlines. There weren't any, however, to match the hostilities between Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. Those skirmishes would have done the Hatfields and McCoys proud. And

Big Eight Schools Strike Gold In'86



J.J Flannigan

Doug Glaser



James Goode



Bernard Hall



Brad Hinkle



there was the story out of Hazelwood, Mo., where the Tigers captured the most heralded running back prospect in the conference since Marcus Dupree signed with Oklahoma. Tony VanZant is expected to be instant offense for Mizzou.

And, of course, there was the drama and last-minute ups and downs surrounding the recruiting of Terry Rodgers. The son of former Nebraska Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Rodgers, Terry finally signed with the Huskers in May after a battle with USC and Texas.

Iowa State, Kansas and Kansas State all relied heavily on the junior college ranks, and all said they were pleased with the results.

The shouting match between Oklahoma and Oklahoma State sizzled. Some say it was the hottest in recent memories. Cowboy athletic director Roderick accused OU's Barry Switzer of negative recruiting - a practice that is not against NCAA rules, but was singled out as a "no-no" by the Big Eight after OSU's then-recruiting coordinator Willie Anderson was accused in 1985 of campaigning against the Sooners with rumors and inuendos. Roderick made front-page headlines the final day before national signing began when he said Switzer had been telling OSU recruits that the Pokes were in trouble with the NCAA and that an investigation was underway.

When Roderick took his accusations to the media and threatened to protest to the Big Eight, Switzer simply stated that, "I didn't tell those recruits anything that wasn't factual."

At press time there was still considerable speculation about a formal investigation into possible recruiting violations by OSU. Anderson left the school in May officially to enter private business, but by more than one account due to pressure from O-State officials. And other reports had NCAA investigators talking to Mangum (Okla.) blue chipper Robert Lee Conner, who eventually signed with Oklahoma. The NCAA was said to have had an investigator in Mangum talking to Conner and others for five days in the winter, checking out accusations of illegal recruiting by OSU. Conner would make no public comment.

Many of the rumors centered around Texas prep sensation Melvin Foster, rated the top player in that talent-rich state. Foster elected to go to Iowa after most insiders felt he would wind up in Stillwater — giving Oklahoma State the top prospect out of Texas for three straight years (Thurman Thomas and Hart Lee Dykes signed with OSU in 1984 and 1985, respectively).

And, of course, there were the rumors surrounding the chase for Van Zant's commitment. When a player with that much talent is involved, the rumors are certain to fly. And there were plenty of stories being told in January and February.

Van Zant is a "can't miss" property. All that he did as a senior was rush for 2,738 yards and average 9.8 yards per carry! During his fabled career at Hazelwood Central in St. Louis he gained 6,238 yards and scored 91 touchdowns. He led his team to an unbeaten state championship season.

But, as might be expected, there were strange circumstances in the wooing of Van Zant. Oklahoma State's was the only summer camp he attended in 1985. And during one week in January he said he was leaning toward a return to Stillwater, with Michigan in second place. He said he did not feel an obligation to attend Missouri just because he lived in that state. A day later his father said he was leaning toward Michigan. And two days later he made a formal commitment to Missouri at a booster club function.

Even after that commitment, however, there were rumors that he was having second thoughts, and that OSU or Michigan were back in the picture. The reason? Folks said the Tigers were spreading stories of his academic woes. "If he qualifies as a freshman, it will be a miracle," voiced one rival recruiter.

Well, this 6-2, 185-pound speed merchant did qualify. It was discovered he had a reading deficiency, and was he was able to take his ACT verbally. He passed with flying colors.

"Any time you have a player the caliber of Tony Van Zant, rumors are going to be spread," said Tiger recruiting coordinator Steve Miller. "A lot of people tried to steer Tony away from us at the end. But when he made his verbal commitment to us, we thought he would be coming to Missouri. He wanted to get the recruiting over with. The pressure was bothering him."

And another big story was the Nebraska success in nabbing Terry Rodgers. The fleet-footed back didn't make an announcement until early May.

"What that means is that he couldn't sign a letter of intent after May 1," said new Husker recruiting coordinator Dave Gillespie. "So he could wind up anywhere. But he says he's coming to Nebraska, and we believe he'll be here."

Rodgers, who is considered an impact player, seems perfect for the wingback spot his father made famous in Lincoln 15 years ago. He's 5-9, 170 pounds and runs a 4.4 in the 40. He scored 32 TDs as a senior.

"We're going to start Terry out at the Iback because that's where he wants to play," said Gillespie. "Even though he doesn't have great size, he makes up for that with his speed and elusiveness. We definitely think he could stand out at that position."

With an evaluation of Colorado's top recruits out of the way, let's look at the rest of the Big Eight. Keep in mind, however, that with the passage of Proposition 48 (re-

garding minimum academic standards for incoming freshmen), it may not be until mid-summer that the eligibility of many players is officially known.

IOWA STATE

"We feel good about our recruiting success," said Cyclone recruiting coordinator Ed Johnson. "It was a solid year for us. That's two years in a row. I think that gives us a solid foundation for the future. We needed a little of everything. We think we did a good job of filling our needs."

The Cyclones were looking for help at wide receiver, and filled that bill nicely by signing junior college All-Americans Eddie Brown (5-10, 170) from Dodge City, Kan., Tom Schulting (5-11, 176) of Diablo Valley, Calif., and David Taliauli (6-0, 165) of Snow, Utah. All that Schulting did last year was haul in 93 passes — a national junior college record. He was recruited by Stanford.

Help at running back is expected from Curtis Warren from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M Junior College and John Green (6-0, 200) from Pasadena J.C. The most exciting back the Cyclones signed, however, is high school standout Michael Brown of Cincinnati Princeton. Now Brown is the smallest of the Cyclone recruits (5-8, 165), but he's also the most elusive.

"He was named Ohio Back of the Year. He gained 1,700 yards and scored 22 touchdowns. Even though he's only 5-8, he has special abilities," said Johnson. "He will help quite a bit on specialty teams. We think he's a big-time prospect. He's a threat to go all the way every time he gets his hands on the ball."

And there are others. "We got Eugene Williams (6-3, 260) from Creighton Prep in Omaha. He was the Nebraska lineman of the year. He will be an offensive lineman. And we signed two outstanding players in Michigan — Joe Blankenship (6-1, 175) and Ben Mitchell (6-4, 280). We beat both Michigan and Michigan State for those two."

The sleeper of the class? How about quarterback Mark Kamaies (6-2, 200) of Sheldon, Iowa. "He was from a rural town and no one knew about him," says Johnson. "If they did, everyone would have been after him. He's a great athlete who can really throw the ball."

KANSAS

The Jayhawks had their recruiting efforts jolted when Mike Gottfried took a plane east just before Christmas and took over the sagging fortunes at Pittsburgh. The Jayhawks had to scramble for talent, but they didn't do a bad job. New head coach Bob Valesente hopes he solved some immediate needs by signing eight junior college players.

"We tried to bridge the gap the best we could," said new recruiting coordinator

Jim Cochran. "Primarily, we brought in a new staff, and there was some disruption. It's difficult to measure just what it did to our recruiting."

What the Jayhawks had as No. 1 on their shopping list was help at running back. "I think we signed the best group of junior college backs in the country," says Cochran. This group includes Tim Ledford (6-1, 230, 4.6) of Chino (Calif.) and juco All-Americans Scott Schriner (5-10, 190, 4.5) and Arnold Snell (6-0, 200, 4.5) from Independence (Ks.). Snell played for Cochran at Independence. He will have three years of eligibility remaining.

Schriner rushed for 1,420 yards and scored 19 TDs. He led Butler Community College to a post season bowl appearance.

And the KU receiver crew received a boost with the arrival of Drake transfer Rod Harris (5-11, 180) and the signatures of junior college transfer Peda Samuel (5-9, 160) and high school standout Quinton Smith (5-11, 175). Harris had five receptions for 56 yards, three kickoff returns for 32 yards and led Drake in punt returns as a freshman last year before the school dropped football. Smith was a member of the Class 5A state championship team at Houston Yates, catching 59 passes for 958 yards and 12 touchdowns. He also kicked 72 extra points and 12 field goals. Smith picked Kansas over Texas and Texas A&M.

The most heralded of the KU high school recruits is defensive back Brad Hinkle (6-3, 175, 4.6). He was an All-American as a junior and senior. The Olathe (Ks.) South grad is projected as a defensive back in college after intercepting 21 passes his final three years in high school.

And the quarterback the Jayhawk coaching staff has high hopes for is Kelly Donohoe (6-0, 170) of Harrisonville, Mo. He was in the Kansas summer camp last year and they decided he was the signal caller they had to sign. During his three-year career Donohoe threw for 4,524 yards with 35 touchdowns on 321 completions (13.5 yards per pass). He picked KU over Missouri, Iowa State, Colorado and the Air Force Academy.

KANSAS STATE

If you were to rank the recruiting classes in the Big Eight, the Wildcats would finish at the bottom. They did get some welcome relief, however, with the signatures of seven junior college players. And then they went across the country and came away with a few surprises. In reality, it wasn't that bad a class as far as K-State recruiting classes usually go.

The Wildcats did get six players who were given a three-star rating by Terranova: wide receiver Eric Blades (6-0, 170) of Valdosta, Ga.; running back Clark Brown (5-10, 180) from Riverside City, Calif., Junior College; quarterback Chris

Dave McCloughan



Jeff Mills



Darin Muilenberg



Marvin Oglesby



Zarek





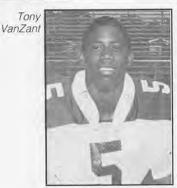
Phillip Pryor

Rodgers



Jake Young





Cobb (6-3, 190) from Dallas Lake Highlands; defensive back Willie Halliburton (6-1, 195) from Coffeyville, Ks, JC; defensive back David Poague (6-1, 190) from Hutchinson, Ks., JC; and offensive lineman Herman Proctor (6-5, 295) from Somerville, N.J. Halliburton was rated 9.25 out of 10 by Emfinger.

Brown is stopping off at his second Big Eight school. He was signed originally by Oklahoma, but left Norman quickly, transferring to the junior college. He has excellent speed and moves. He should add some zip to the Wildcat running game im-

"I do think you would rate Kansas State last in the Big Eight this year in recruiting, but it really wasn't that bad of a class," said one rival recruiter. "They got a few very good junior college players, and then traveled across the country and somehow came away with such players as Eric Blades and Herman Proctor. They're good prospects."

MISSOURI

This was a "must" year in recruiting for the Tigers. Anyone who watched them sink to 1-10 last season knew there had to be new blood injected into the program.

Not only did it have to be new, it had to be talented.

For many years the Tigers have had problems keeping foreign invaders out of their state and taking home with them the top blue chippers. Things were different this time around. Yeoman work was done in convincing Van Zant and stellar Mark Keough (6-7, 245) and Rob Dryden (6-8, 305) to stick around the home front.

Of course Van Zant was the key. It would be an unbelievable upset if it took him more than a week of summer drills to break into the Tiger lineup.

"We think he's the best running back ever produced in the state of Missouri," says recruiting coordinator Steve Miller. Most agree with that statement. Van Zant is said to be a mix of Tony Dorsett and Eric Dickerson. Not a bad combination! Keough, who can get his big frame through the 40 in 4.8, was solid in the Missouri camp most of the way. Dryden finally picked Mizzou over Oklahoma a couple of days before signing date.

There were some other gems brought into Columbia. Tight end Jim Bruton (6-4, 215) was considered one of the brightest jewells in Texas. Gerald Fletcher (6-2, 205, 4.6) is a defensive end-linebacker who reminded OU coaches of All-American Kevin Murphy.

A sleeper in the class could be Mike Logan, a 6-4, 210-pound quarterback from Fulton, Mo. "He was one of the bestkept secrets in the state," says Miller. "He has a great arm and he showed a lot of poise in high school. We are really high on

Mizzou also hit the junior college ranks

hard, signing nine players, and added four transfers from Drake. "We needed help right away and we got it," says Miller.

Maurice Caracter (6-2, 215) established himself as a leading candidate for one of the starting linebacking jobs in the spring. He's from San Francisco City JC, the same junior college that produced O.J. Simpson. He has 4.5 speed in the 40.

It didn't take Robert Delpino (6-1, 210) long to gain a starting wide receiver post in the spring. This import from Dodge City (Ks.) IC caught four passes for 144 yards in the spring game. In his final junior college season he latched onto 35 aerials for 292 yards. Curtis Wilson (6-3, 255) came in from NEO in Oklahoma and was challenging for the starting center job until injured in the spring. The most impressive of the Drake transfers in the spring was Ted Romney (6-5, 265), who was a firstteamer at offensive tackle. He was a twoyear starter and a team captain at Drake.

NEBRASKA

Although it was unusual not to see the Huskers among the elite in all of the recruiting service rankings, Dave Gillespie didn't seemed bothered that the NU efforts were not ranked higher.

"I think we signed some quality athletes. We probably didn't get the numbers that we did before. But we are very happy with the results we attained. There were some disappointments, but everyone has those in recruiting.

"We don't count on freshmen coming in and helping right away. We look at the long-range plans for these players. That's the most important to us. We wanted to get a good running back. That's always a priority for us. And we were looking for for defensive ends and linebackers.'

The most glittering of the Huskers re-

cruits was Rodgers.

"Terry could come in and be productive in many areas," Gillespie said. "He could be used bringing back kicks, like his father did. He is a great athlete. He had to be named California Player of the Year.'

Nebraska has had success in past years recruiting in the New Jersey area. And the Huskers put their magic together once again to get one of the top plums in that state, defensive end-linebacker Jeff Mills of Montclair. This 6-4, 220-pounder with 4.75 speed in the 40 was the leader of a defensive unit some considered the best in New Jersey. Mills had 18 quarterback sacks and led his team in tackles and assists. He also blocked two punts that were recovered for touchdowns. Coach Jack Davies also used Mills as a fullback on short-yardage runs. "We beat Chicago and the Refrigerator by about a month," Davies said.

Coach Tom Osborne's troops had a banner year when they went into Texas and came home with the likes of offensive linemen Jake Young (6-5, 225, 4.9) from Midland Lee and Doug Glaser (6-7, 295, 5.4) from Mesquite as well as defensive lineman Kenny Walker (6-4, 215, 4.6) from Crane. All have that blue-chip gleam.

"Jake Young may be the best offensive lineman in the country," said one Southwest Conference recruiter. He broke a school record of knocking an opposing player off his feet with 27. He also posted a 4.3 grade point average.

Glaser had been ranked high before the season got underway, and he didn't disappoint anyone. The Dallas Morning News ranked him the No. 2 offensive lineman in Texas. He picked the Huskers after a visit to Texas and then cancelled a trip to Oklahoma. He'll fit in nicely with all the other Husker offensive linemen who find their way some day into the NFL.

Walker is the most interesting of all the Big Eight recruits. He's been deaf since the age of two. He has a 42-inch vertical jump and has run the 220 in 22.1 seconds. He averaged 12 tackles and four sacks a game. Another Texan who comes to Lincoln with tall credentials is quarterback Jeff Miller (6-3, 210, 4.7) of Houston Cy-Fair. He directed an option offense in which he ran for over 400 yards and passed for 1,600.

The best of the in-state crop for Nebraska may be athlete-deluxe Gerry Gdowski of Fremont. All that he did in three years was pass for 2,613 yards and 34 touchdowns. He'll start out at quarterback, but could wind up as either a split end or a defensive back.

OKLAHOMA

The Sooners set out to corral linemen. When the hunt was over, they had done

Sure, there were disappointments. The most bitter came when they lost Del City (Okla.) running back Vernon Brown to Oklahoma State. And they wanted to get a couple of inside linebackers. That will have to wait until next year.

"We accomplished what we had to," said OU recruiting coordinator Scott Hill. "We needed to bring in a group of outstanding linemen. We were able to accomplish that. Last year we were looking for defensive backs and quarterbacks. We took care of that. This time it was linemen and split ends. Next year we will try to get linebackers and running backs."

Who were the best of the line prizes? That is a tough question to answer. The ones who received the most mention were Californian Nigel Clay, Texan Zarek Peters and in-state whiz Robert Lee Conner.

Clay (6-4, 265, 4.8) was a first-team USA Today All-American from Fontana. "I think he was as fine an offensive guard as there was in the country," said Hill. "He is a great trapper and puller. He has a chance to be a great one.

Peters is another USA Today All-American. This 6-4, 255-pounder with 5.2 speed was the best defender on one of the premier high school defensive units in the state of Texas. His prep team recorded seven shutouts and was scored upon only four times during the season. Emfinger ranked him the No. 1 defensive tackle in

Conner became embroiled in a fierce recruiting battle between Oklahoma and Oklahoma State. Sooner coaches were shouting "foul" over the Cowboy tactics. The fact that the 6-5, 270-pounder didn't play as a senior because of knee surgery hasn't dampened the enthusiasm of anyone in Norman. The knee has healed, and big things are expected from this Mangum prospect.

There are plenty of other linemen who will come to Norman with blue chip credentials. Harold Jones (6-4, 270, 4.9) of Bristow (Okla.) committed to OU, then to Alabama and then signed the next day with Oklahoma. Larry Medice (6-4, 275, 5.1) of New Orleans committed to Nebraska before visiting Norman, then changed his mind and held off a strong bid by the Huskers to win him back again. Terron Manning (6-2, 285, 5.2) of Muskogee (Okla.) was thought by some to be as good as Conner.

Darrell Kirby (6-4, 255, 4.9) from Orlando (Fla.) Jones picked the Sooners over Alabama. And Barry Switzer likes the athletic ability of Tracy Gordon (6-3, 240,

4.8) from Pocola, Okla.

The biggest surprise might have been how the Sooners were able to nab prep All-American quarterback Bernard Hall (6-3, 210, 4.5) from Detroit. Hall totalled more than 4,000 yards in total offense the last two years.

The big question is where he'll play. "I think he would be a great running back," says Hill. "But I think when he arrives here and the other coaches see how he can play quarterback, I think that's where he'll stay."

"He could be a linebacker for us," says Switzer. And former OU Heisman Trophy winner Billy Sims, whose friendship with Hall was a big help in the recruiting, said, "I've seen him play, and he could be a great option quarterback. But I think he may be even better at free safety,"

The two defensive end prizes captured were James Goode (6-4, 215, 4.65) of Houston Yates and Adrian Cooper (6-5, 220, 4.6) from Denver South. Emfinger ranked Goode the No. 14 player overall in Texas and the No. 3 defensive end. Cooper, who averaged 24 points in basketball, is an athlete who should be an impact defensive player before he's finished in college, although it could be at tackle if he gets bigger as expected.

OKLAHOMA STATE

The Cowboys probably had their best recruiting year from top to bottom in the school's history. Pat Jones' staff did a magnificent job. However, there was controversy.

There was the on-going battle with OU. And then in mid-May recruiting coordinator Willie Anderson resigned among a great deal of speculation that there could be problems with the NCAA. Anderson had been reassigned before he left the school to join an Edmond car deal-

But he and the rest of the Pokes really struck it rich in February. The biggest gold mine was in the Dallas-Ft. Worth Metroplex. They came away with one of the best backs in the country in Terance Miller (6-1, 200, 4.5) of Lewisville, teammate Reggie Christian (6-3, 260, 5.1 center and nose guard), offensive lineman Phillip Pryor (6-4, 270, 5.2) of Dennison and Roland Scott (6-3, 210, 4.65) of Dallas Carter.

Miller could be a great one. Unfortunately for the Cowboys, they will have to wait another year before they see him in action. He will be sidelined as a freshman because of academic shortcomings. He rushed for 1,318 yards as a senior and was hunted down by every major school around.

Pryor was the primary blocker for Aaron Jackson, who rushed for 2,248 yards. Scott had 38 solo tackles, 24 assists, recovered three fumbles and knocked

down four passes.

The Cowboys made their way to Georgia to raid that state of linebacker Marvin Oglesby (6-3, 215, 4.6) of Decatur. He was named MVP of the South Carolina summer camp last year. O-State was the winner over Nebraska, Auburn, Georgia, South Carolina and Texas in that chase. Oglesby should be able to play as a freshman at OSU.

The Pokes lost most of the in-state battles to Oklahoma. But they did manage to escape with some victories. The big coups were Vernon Brown (6-0, 199, 4.5) of Del City, quarterback Mike Gundy (6-0, 175, 4.55) of state Class 5A champion Midwest City and linebacker Sim Drain (6-2, 210, 4.6) of Stillwater.

"We thought Brown was as good or better than any back in Texas," said OU's Hill. Brown gained 1,651 yards and scored 16 TDs as a senior. Gundy, who is also an outstanding baseball player, totalled 2,500 yards as a senior. He could wind up as a defensive back in college. Another in-stater who could be heard from at Stillwater is rifle-armed quarterback Chris Smith of Ponca City.

Two outstanding prospects from Wichita North were signed by OSU. Wingback Barry Sanders (5-10, 170, 4.5) ran for 1,521 yards and averaged 10.2 yards per carry. Lineman Joel Fry (6-5, 250, 5.3) was the other North player joining the Cowboys. "Sanders is the best back to come out of here in years," said North coach Dale Burkholder.















Pat Ray

Gary Justis

Mike Orth

Richard Dillon

Ken McMichel

Duncan Parham

Terry Pritchard

evin Murphy, Charles Crawford, Mike Knox, Johnny Holloway and Joe Close did it because they were injured. Anthony Phillips, Von Sheppard, Darryl Darling and many others did it because they were young and needed to develop skills while older players started ahead of them. Steve Nave, Eldridge Avery and Sylvester Byrd did it to enhance Kansas chances of challenging for a Big Eight title in 1985.

"It" was redshirting. Those Big Eight standouts are among the many who sat out the 1984 season so that they could gain an extra year of eligibility.

Redshirting is a common practice in college football today. Fifth-year seniors are much more common than fourth-year seniors.

It is rare to find a player who is good enough to step in and make the traveling squad as a true freshman and finish his career in four years — without the need of a redshirt year to come back from an injury, get bigger and stronger, or simply wait until someone better than he is runs out of eligibility.

On the surface, the practice seems like a great deal for the players involved. They don't have the pressure of playing on Saturday afternoon, although they go through practice with the rest of the squad — unless injuries prohibit it. They have more time to devote to their books. They gain an extra year of eligibility — a year when they should be bigger, stronger and more experienced.

But most players who go through a redshirt year go through a little bit of hell. Almost all will admit that it's tough practicing Sunday through Thursday, only to watch from the sidelines on Saturday. No matter how logical the decision seems to be redshirted, the emotional frustration is difficult to deal with.

The Big Eight should be bursting with players who redshirted in 1985 and are ready to join the Saturday fun in 1986. As usual, the reasons for the redshirt years last season are varied. But the result should be the same — they'll be chomping at the bit when the new season kicks off in Sep-

tember

Two members of the 1985 All-Big Eight team were 1984 redshirts. Oklahoma's Phillips and Murphy were both held out in 1984, then came back to earn all-star plaudits last fall. Phillips was a true freshman in 1984 and the Sooners had a veteran offensive line. The Jenks High School standout lifted weights, put on about 20 pounds, developed his technique and was a starter from Day One at OU. He was also a second-team Academic All-American.

Murphy was sidelined by an ankle injury in the first minutes of the second game of the 1984 season. A former two-time All-Big Eight pick at defensive end, he never recovered fully enough to return in 1984 and was granted a hardship ruling so that he could play last year. He chalked up his third all-star campaign and played a key part in the Sooners' national title quest.

Crawford of Kansas State, Close of Missouri and Holloway of Kansas were others who were injured early in the 1984 season and received hardship rulings. Had they been redshirted earlier in their careers, they would simply have lost that year of playing time in 1984.

Knox was an All-Big Eight linebacker at Nebraska in 1983, then suffered a serious knee injury in the spring of 1984. He sat out the 1984 season to rehabilitate that knee after surgery and returned to action last fall for his final year as a Husker.

There were many others around the Big Eight last year who played key roles for their teams after redshirting in 1984. Among the better known were Derrick Crudup at OU; Nave, Avery, Byrd, Jeff Johnson, Sandy McGee and Darnell Williams at Kansas; Terry Sheffey at Iowa State; Joey O'Donnell at Oklahoma State; Darling, Close and Steve Vandegrift (the latter held out because of slow healing after a motorcycle accident the spring before he enrolled) of Missouri; and John McCormick, Tom Banderas, McCathorn Clayton, Sheppard, Lee Jones, Tony Holloway and Craig Schnitzler of Nebraska.

Oklahoma, Kansas State, Missouri,

Colorado and Oklahoma State are all relying heavily on redshirts this season — in most instances for depth. Nebraska, Iowa State and Kansas have little room for redshirts to make an impact in 1986.

Here's a school-by-school look at some of the names you should be hearing a lot of this fall who were watching from the sidelines as redshirts in 1985:

COLORADO: The Buffaloes have very few starting positions open, but at least five Buffs will be seeing a lot of duty after 1984 redshirt seasons. The best known is kicker Dave DeLine, who started at CU as a freshman in 1983. DeLine was caught in an off-field act that cost him the 1984 season. But he's been reinstated to the team and kicked extremely well this spring to regain his starting job.

Bill Coleman is a 6-foot-4, 250-pound second-year freshman who started out this spring at second-team right tackle, but wound up as the starting left guard. Tom Dunn (6-2, 220) is another redshirt frosh who could end up starting at outside linebacker. He and sophomore Tom Reinhardt were locked in a tight race for that spot

Colorado is loaded with wide receivers, but second-year freshman Keith Pontiflet (6-0, 170) showed exceptional skills this spring and will be a candidate for playing time in the fall.

IOWA STATE: The Cyclones listed no redshirts as players to watch this fall, as Jim Criner returns most of his starters and is relying on junior college transfers to fill many of the open spots on the two-deep. But quarterback Brett Sadek (6-2, 201 jr.) is eligible this year after sitting out following his transfer from Minnesota, and Alan Patten (6-3, 229 jr.) is a walkon who worked with both the first and second teams at defensive end.

KANSAS: After loading up with redshirt starters last fall, the Jayhawks will be depending on very few for help in 1986. But one of them is a real key to KU fortunes, as quarterback Mike Orth sat out the 1985 season so that he would have two full years left after the graduation of Mike Norseth. Orth was the starter for the Jays this











Kert Kaspar

Richard Davis

Brent Cook

Darren McDonald Charles Fryar

spring. Guy Gamble (6-3, 245 sr.) is expected to provide depth at defensive tackle.

KANSAS STATE: The Wildcats recruited a flock of junior college players, but new coach Stan Parrish finished the spring with several redshirts of 1985 in key positions.

Four of those were starting at the end of spring drills. Dan Hughes (5-10, 175 jr.) had one of the wide receiver jobs locked down, while on defense the 'Cats were starting Roderick Stansell (6-2, 250 fr.) at right tackle, Dewayne Baziel (6-3, 200 fr.) at an outside linebacker and Willie Halliburton (6-1, 190 jr.) at rover.

In addition, K-State listed second teamers Chad Faulkner (6-2, 235 fr.) at offensive tackle, Wes Morris (6-3, 235 fr.) at center, Kenney Taylor (6-2, 210 fr.) at guard, David Kruger (5-10, 170 fr.) at kicker, Ed Williams (6-3, 230 fr.) and John Crawford (6-3, 220 fr.) at defensive tackles; Dan Goldner (6-3, 220, jr.) at linebacker; Jeff Lowe (6-0, 185 fr.) at rover; and David Compton (5-11, 170 fr.) at cornerback.

MISSOURI: The Tigers will be relying on several 1985 redshirts (as well as transfers from Drake who will be eligible immediately) to come through for them this fall as they attempt to bounce back from a nightmarish 1-10 season.

Pat Ray (5-10, 175 soph) was slated to start at cornerback and Gary Justis (6-2, 225 sr.) at outside linebacker in 1985 before injuries sidelined them last fall. Both are back and were starters at the conclusion of spring practice.

Lee Johnson (6-1, 249) and Darren McDonald (6-1, 203) were highly touted recruits a year ago as linebackers. Both were redshirted. Johnson was moved to nose tackle, where he finished the spring second behind Darling. McDonald backs true sophomore Terry Walker at an inside backer spot.

Two 1985 redshirts will be key factors on offense. Brent Cook (6-2, 189 fr.) was in the middle of the quarterback battle this spring, while Tommy Stowers (6-3, 200 fr.) gives MU a new dimension at fullback, where he was running second

team

NEBRASKA: The Huskers were forced to rely on several players coming off redshirt years in 1985. There will be little room for redshirts this fall.

Rod Smith (6-0, 190 soph) provides some depth at split end, while John Kroeker (5-11, 180 soph) topped the punters at the end of the spring.

OKLAHOMA: Even though the defending national champions return 25 different players who have started at one time or another, there may be a couple of 1985 redshirts who wind up No. 1 on the depth chart when the new season opens.

Richard Davis (6-2, 260 fr.) played some at nose guard early last season before an injury sidelined him. He received a hardship ruling and will share time in the middle of the defense with Curtice Williams.

Oklahoma's secondary led the nation in pass defense last fall, and everyone returns. But Kenneth McMichel (6-1, 185 fr.) made such an impression in the spring that he may start at a corner before the year is over.

Other redshirts who should play a lot include Kert Kasper (6-3, 240 soph) at defensive end, Terry Pritchard (6-6, 225 fr.) and Duncan Parham (6-5, 248 soph) at tight end and Richard Dillon (6-0, 200 soph) at linebacker. Dillon also missed the 1985 season because of an injury suffered in pre-season and Parham sat out the year after transferring from Florida, where he played some as a true freshman in 1984.

OKLAHOMA STATE: The Cowboys enter the 1986 season with several openings on their offensive and defensive lines, but it was redshirt sophomore Donnie Brown (5-9, 183) who made the loudest noise this spring. His play at free safety allowed the Pokes to move Mark Moore to cornerback, where he should be more effective.

Also making their marks this spring after coming out of mothballs were offensive linemen Jason Kidder (6-3, 272 soph), Matt Kolb (6-5, 250 soph) and Brent Davis (6-4, 230 fr.). All three were listed as second teamers in the spring, but should play a lot. ◆

1985 Redshirts Could Play Key Roles In '86

By Al Eschbach



Kevin Pritchard

Beau Reid



t's not going to be the same Big Eight Conference. You'll need a scorecard to acquaint you with the new basketball coaches. Gone are Moe Iba, Jack Hartman, Paul Hansen and Tom Apke.

Hartman became tired of coaching. He decided there was life after Kansas State. A heart attack suffered during the 1984-85 season made him think there were a few more important things than arguing with officials some 30 times a year.

And there were other reasons for changes. Apke and Hansen were forced out at Colorado and Oklahoma State, respectively. Hansen could muster only one first-division finish at OSU in seven years. Apke had problems keeping the top high school talent in Colorado — not to mention problems winning in the Big Eight. This year there were great players in Colorado, and none of them stayed home. Iba turned in his resignation at the conclusion of his team's final game — in the school's first NCAA tournament appearance! His departure had been rumored most of the season.

The past six years have brought coaches Billy Tubbs, Johnny Orr and Larry Brown into the league. Tubbs has produced two Big Eight championship teams and four straight NCAA tourney qualifiers at Oklahoma. Orr has turned Iowa State fortunes around, taking the Cyclones to the NCAA tournament this past winter. And

Brown led Kansas to the Final Four last season.

Norm Stewart of Missouri is the elder statesman in the league.

Now for the new blood. Introducing Lon Kruger at Kansas State, Danny Nee at Nebraska, Leonard Hamilton at Oklahoma State and Tom Miller at Colorado. Kruger was the head coach at Pan American, Nee at Ohio and Miller at Cornell. Hamilton came to OSU from Kentucky, where he was an assistant.

What will be interesting to see is how well this new group can recruit. Brown, Tubbs, Orr and Stewart have already proven themselves. That's why they have been around as long as they have. Now it will be up to the new guys on the block to show what they can do.

It will be difficult to judge just how well the new coaches recruited until next winter. But Hamilton and Kruger did pull some surprises. And Nee brought in some interesting newcomers. Miller is going through the painful experience of trying to build a Colorado program that is on ground level—at best.

Van Coleman, who runs one of the most respected basketball recruiting services in the country — the "National Recruiters Cage Letter" — had no surprises when ranking the Big Eight classes this spring.

"I'd have to say that Kansas had the best

Ricky Grace



Terrence Mullins

Kansas Dominates





year in the conference, followed by Missouri and then Oklahoma and Iowa State," said Coleman. "It was difficult to judge Oklahoma State's year because they signed so many players. Hamilton did a good job. And I think Kansas State did awfully well in the junior college ranks. Nebraska got some yeoman-like players, and Colorado really didn't do well."

When you look at recruiting in the Big Eight, you have to start with Kansas. Not only did the Jayhawks have the best class overall, but they brought into the league the top individual prospect in Mark Randall of Cherry Creek, Colo.

Oklahoma finished second in the spring signing period for high school standouts Chris Munk and Anthony Allen of Port Arthur, Tex., and junior college All-Americans Gerald Paddio of Seminole (Okla.), Harvey Grant of Independence (Ks.) and Lydell Eackles of national champion San Jacinto (Tx.). Those losses kept the Sooners from having a really great recruiting year.

Missouri found the pickin's very slim at home. So the Tigers went national and came home with a group that has Stewart smiling. And Kansas State pulled a coup by hiring Moberly (Mo.) Junior College coach Dana Altman as an assistant for Kruger. Altman became a very hot property because he had some of the best juco talent in the country at Moberly. Oklahoma State had also tried to lure him

away. But the Wildcats won the sweepstakes, and with Altman came two of his Moberly standouts — Mitch Richmond and Charles Bledsoe.

Every team in the Big Eight had to replace key people. So it was a critical recruiting year for a league which sent five teams to the NCAA tournament last winter. Here's a look at each team:

Colorado

You knew what kind of a year the Buffaloes were going to have early in November when standouts such as All-Americans Michael Christian and Randall decided to go to Georgia Tech and Kansas, respectively. And another outstanding prospect, Robert Coyne of Denver, also fled to Kansas. It was that kind of year.

When it was over, the Buffs had two new players — Kerry Nash of Denver George Washington and Brent Vaughn of Bloomington, Ind. Nash was signed by Miller and Vaughn by Apke in November.

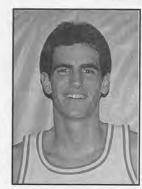
Nash is a 6-foot-1 point guard. He averaged 13 points and 5.5 assists in helping his team claim the state Class 4A championship over Randall's Cherry Creek power.

Vaughn is a 6-8 forward who was not highly recruited. He will give the Buffs some depth up front. Nash is a heady player who doesn't make too many mistakes. He was a standout in the classroom with a 3.5 grade average. "I think he was

Derrick Vick



Matt Margenthaler



Basketball Recruiting

SECOND TEAM

Robert Coyne, Denver West Royce Jeffries, Grant, Ok. Matt Margenthaler, Macomb, II. Rod Samuel, Dallas South Oak Cliff Adrian Simmons, Pensacola, Fl. F 6-9 28.0 13.0 F 6-6 22.1 10.3 G 6-3 24.7 5.5 G 6-5 DNP DNP G 6-2 23.5 9.0

Kansas Okla. State Iowa State Oklahoma Missouri



Rodney Samuel



Royce Jeffries

the most under-rated player in the state," says prep coach Joe Strain. A lot of other

people agree.

Miller wasn't in any hurry to use up all his scholarships when he arrived in Boulder. The Buffs had six available. "We want to be selective. It hurt us coming in late. We'll be able to use those scholarships next year," he explained.

Iowa State

Hoops reached a fever state in Ames this year with the Cyclones finishing a surprise second in the Big Eight, then falling by only two to Kansas in the post-season tournament and going on to beat the likes of Michigan in the NCAA tournament before bowing out.

One of the main reasons ISU has risen to such heights on the hardwoods is the recruiting prowess of Orr. Now Ames certainly isn't the greatest place to visit in the Big Eight, but Orr has convinced some

top-notch players that it is.

The Cyclones needed help at guard because of the graduation of all-league performer Jeff Hornacek. They had their prayers answered in the form of Matt Margenthaler and Adrian Moore.

Margenthaler is a 6-3, 170-pounder from Macomb, III. He averaged 24.7 points, 5.5 rebounds and 4.3 assists as a senior. He made 51 consecutive free throws during one stage of the season, breaking the old state record of 50. As a junior he averaged 23 points a game. He was nominated for the McDonald's All-American game.

"He's very similar to Hornacek," says Van Coleman. "He's a floor general. In two years he'll be an excellent Big Eight

player."

Moore averaged 19 points, 10 rebounds and five assists a game. He was selected to the all-public school league in Chicago. "That's a tough league," says Coleman. "Iowa State loses Ron Virgil, and Moore is the same type of player. But he's a better athlete. He does so many things well."

Orr brought one more guard in Terry Woods of Waterloo, Ia. This 5-9 play-maker deluxe averaged 20.2 points, 5.3 assists and 2.8 rebounds as a senior. He hit on .484 from the field and .560 from the free throw line. He was a first-team allstate selection.

Another Iowa native brought in was 6-7 Paul Doerrfeld of Davenport. He played in only 10 games as a senior because of a knee injury. His stats included a 17.0 scoring average and 8.1 rebounds per game. He was all-league as a junior. The final signee was Bryan Heger of Robbinsdale, Minn. He is a defensive specialist, having blocked 60 shots in 20 games. Heger averaged 12.3 points and 10 rebounds.

Kansas

You knew the Jayhawks had to have a good year recruiting to fill the holes left by the graduation of Ron Kellogg, Greg Dreiling and Calvin Thompson. Even more importance was put on signing a great bunch of newcomers when forward Archie Marshall went out with a knee injury in the NCAA Final Four against Duke. Marshall will miss the 1986-87 sea-

Brown knew he had to get the type of players who could play right away if the lays were going to defend their Big Eight title. When the results were in, Kansas had what is ranked as one of the top recruiting classes in the nation.

Start with Randall (and who wouldn't!). He was on every All-American team. It would be an awful upset if he didn't start opposite Danny Manning at forward. This 6-9 sharp-shooter averaged 27.2 points and 12.5 rebounds. He showed he could play with the big boys when he scored 13 points and had 11 rebounds in the Capitol Classic and followed that with 16 points in the McDonald's All-American game. He's a cinch All-Big Eight player of the future. The only question is how soon he'll earn those honors.

Brown used his friendship at Tulsa Edison High School to help steal away the best prep prospect in Oklahoma. Kevin Pritchard is from the same school that produced Marshall, who came to KU from the

junior college ranks.

"Pritchard has to come in and start at the second guard if we're going to have the success we want to have," said one Jayhawk insider. Pritchard scored 22.3 points per game as a senior and hit 18 in the Derby Classic, where he was named MVP. Pritchard is an intelligent player who possesses a fine outside shot. He was a ninth grader four years ago when Oklahoma sent guards Steve Hale (Jenks) to North Carolina and Mark Price (Enid) to Georgia Tech. If Pritchard can do for KU what those two did for their college teams, the Jays will have solved a big problem in

Who will replace Dreiling at center? It just may be Sean Alvarado, who played for the No. 2 junior college team in the nation at Hutchinson (Ks.). Alvarado's stats were not that impressive. This 6-10, 195pounder averaged only 8.4 points and 4.2 rebounds. What must be remembered is this was a balanced Hutchinson team, and Alvarado shared time at center with Ben Gillery, who signed with Georgetown. "Kansas got the better player," said Van Coleman.

Another big man KU is bringing to Lawrence is the 6-9 Coyne from Denver West. Coyne is a finesse player who has a nice outside touch. He's a good ball handler for his size. He's a native of Puerto Rico, and that's where he's playing this summer. He averaged 28 points and 13 boards a game his last year in high school.

Two swingmen recruited were Keith Harris and Jeff Gueldner. "Harris is outstanding," says Coleman. This 6-6 leaper from Santa Monica, Calif., averaged 18 points and 12 rebounds. He'll play small forward and the big guard. The 6-7 Gueldner is a sleeper. He averaged 17 points and nine rebounds last year. He could be a redshirt candidate.

Kansas State

The Wildcats' recruiting took an upward swing when Kruger brought in Moberly's Altman. Richmond and Bledsoe should become instant starters.

Richmond was a first-team All-American selection. He averaged 16 points and 6.8 rebounds. He was expected by most to go home to play his final two years of college ball in Florida. But the Wildcats persuaded him to come their way. It should help make up for the loss of Norris Coleman.

The 6-7 Bledsoe is a rugged customer. He uses his 210-pound frame to good use underneath. He was an honorable mention juco All-American. Bledsoe averaged 13.9 points and 8.1 rebounds. He was Player of the Year in St. Louis as a high school

Two other junior college players were captured by the 'Cats - William Scott of St. Fair Community College in Sedalia (Mo.) and Michael McCraeven from Kaskaskia Community College in Centralia (Ill.). One will take over a vacant starting

McCraeven has averaged over 20 points a game the past two years for one of the best juco teams in the country. Scott, who hit 50 percent of his shots from the field and a sizzling 88 percent from the free throw line, averaged 17.1 points this past

Yes, K-State did recruit two high school players - guard Steve Henson and 6-11 center Howard Bonser. Henson was one of the best players in Kansas. He had excellent numbers: 19.5 points, 6.0 rebounds, 6.8 assists and 6.0 steals. His athletic ability is demonstrated by the fact that he's one of the top decathletes in the nation. Bonser is

JUNIOR COLLEGE TRANSFERS

0011101100		64.55.6	-	21.2	
Todd Christian, Hutchingson, Ks.	G	6-6	19.9	NA	Okla. State
Ricky Grace, Midland, Tx.	G	6-1	15.8	NA	Oklahoma
Sly Kincheons, Seminole, Ok.	C	6-10	13.0	10.1	Okla. State
Mike Richmond, Moberly, Mo.	F	6-6	16.0	6.8	Kansas State
Derrick Vick, Hutchinson, Ks.	F	6-6	11.9	7.5	Nebraska

a future prospect. He's from Manhattan, and averaged 12.1 points and 7.8 rebounds.

Missouri

Just how happy was Norm Stewart with his recruiting capers? Just listen: "I've been saying 'We're pleased ... 'when I talk about our recruiting. But I'll go out on a limb this time to say 'We're extremely pleased.' We've added an excellent class to join a solid group of returnees."

The Tigers needed help. They lost two of their top players in guard Jeff Strong and forward Dan Bingenheimer.

One newcomer has to be penciled into the starting lineup. He's 6-9 Nathan Buntin from Detroit. He has that "can't miss" look about him. He's the son of the late Bill Buntin, a star at Michigan along with Cazzie Russell in the mid-60's. Like his father, he can play the game. He averaged 26 points and 12 rebounds. Buntin was an All-State selection.

Another forward brought in who oozes with potential is 6-9 Chris Jeter from San Diego. "He's a finesse player," says Coleman. "He is an excellent shooter and ball handler. He needs to become a little stronger. He's not as far along as Buntin, but he'll help." Jeter averaged 18 points and 14 rebounds. A third forward signed was Mike Ingram from Moberly Junior College. The best thing about this talented athlete who averaged 10.8 points and 6.8 rebounds is that he'll have three years of eligibility remaining.

Stewart needs to find someone who can replace Strong at guard. The answer may come in the form of 6-2 Adrian Simmons from Pensacola, Fla. He's a flashy performer who was Player of the Year in northwest Florida, Simmons kept busy by averaging 23.5 points, nine rebounds and five assists.

Also expected to see some playing time is 6-foot Lee Coward, a prep teammate of Buntin's. He lit up the scoreboard by averaging 24 points a game. How good was this recruiting effort by the Tigers? Well, it was the second best in the conference and the best at Mizzou since Stewart signed a couple of guys named Steve Stipanovich and Jon Sunvold.

Nebraska

The Huskers are hoping that Nee can get their program into national prominence. The late start did not help recruiting, however. "We weren't going to rush out and sign just anyone," said Nee. "We wanted to be selective. It's tough coming in late. But we think we signed some players who will lend us a hand this year.'

The ones who could lend the most help the quickest are from the powerful Hutchinson Junior College team - Derrick Vick, a 6-61/2 forward from Chicago and 6-1 Henry Buchanan from Muncie, Ind.

"We feel that both of these players are

capable of coming in and helping us," says Nee. "Derrick Vick is a fine all-around forward. He can score. He can rebound. And he can play defense. Henry Buchanan has excellent quickness and the maturity to be a fine Division I point guard."

Vick raised some eyebrows at the national junior college tournament when he made the All-Tournament team. He was Hutchinson's third-leading scorer with an 11.9 average and led the team in rebounding with a 7.5 reading. Buchanan was an honorable mention All-League choice. He

Kansas added a late bonus to the Class of '86 when Coach Larry Brown announced that 6-6 standout Vince Askew was transferring from Memphis State.

can get the ball to the open man and has good quickness. His forte is passing the ball. He set school records in assists with 209 and steals with 74. He averaged 9.1

A third junior college import is Jeff Rekeweg from Southern Idaho. The 6-7 Rekeweg averaged 10 points and six rebounds.

The Huskers will have to wait a year perhaps for its top recruit, 6-7 Beau Reid of Lancaster, Ohio. Reid is an interesting story. He had signed with Nee and Ohio University during the early signing period in November. But when Nee headed west to Lincoln and hired Reid's father, Arden, to his coaching staff, Beau decided to join the pack. He will have to sit out a year due to NCAA rules regarding transfers. He will still have four years of eligibility re-

Reid averaged 22.8 points and 9.9 rebounds while shooting 50 percent from the field and 79.3 from the charity stripe as a high school senior. He was a first-team All-State choice and led Lancaster to a 20-5 mark and the state quarterfinals.

"He's a good player," said Coleman. "He does a lot of things well. He's like

having another coach on the floor."

Oklahoma

There were ups and downs for the Sooners. The "ups" were signing three quality guards in Terrence Mullins, Ricky Grace and Rodney Samuel. The "downs" were losing the top high school players in Oklahoma (Pritchard to Kansas and Royce Jeffries to OSU) and then finishing second in the chase after forwards like Chris Munk, Allen and juco standouts Harvey Grant, Paddio and Lydell Eackles.

"I have to say we were very pleased with the guards we signed, but I was disappointed that we didn't sign any big people," said Tubbs. "We went after a lot of outstanding players. We don't want to

settle for second best."

The Sooners didn't settle for second best in the guard spots when they signed their newest trio.

"Rodney Samuel was named honorable mention All-American by us this year, said Coleman. "If he hadn't been hurt and played (his senior year), he might have been one of the top 25 players in the country. Mullins was rated as one of the best guards in the country and Grace was probably the best point guard in the junior college ranks."

Grace will move right into the Sooner starting lineup. He will replace another former junior college All-American Linwood Davis.

"Ricky Grace is more of a pure point guard than Linwood was," says Tubbs. "Even when we brought Jan Pannell (another juco player at point guard before Davis) in, he wasn't a pure point guard. I like the way Ricky plays. He's not flashy, but he's very smart. We'll work him into our system. Point guard is the toughest position to learn. He'll make mistakes early, but we think he can really help us.'

Grace averaged 15.8 points and 10.7 assists at Midland Junior College in Texas. His 363 assists broke the mark set by former Midland star Spud Webb. He picked OU over Missouri and SMU.

Mullins was named the Player of the Year in the Bay Area, leading San Francisco Riordan High to a banner campaign.

"Terrence will remind some people of Tim McCalister," says Tubbs. "He's a very strong player and a good rebounder and an outstanding outside shooter. I like his offensive ability. Down the line, he could be a point guard. As a freshman, he'll play the two guard."

Samuel was ranked as the No. 1 prospect in Texas before being shelved with a knee injury. He was ranked two in the post-season ratings behind Anthony

"He is an outstanding swingman," Coleman said. "He's a scorer. And he can jump. If he's healthy, he can help the Sooners right away. The word is that Samuel is ready to go and has been playing

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With the failure to sign forwards, the Sooners will have to do that in November and next April. It will be critical at that time, as after this next season they will lose Choo Kennedy, David Johnson, Ron Roberts and Chuck Watson. Oklahoma will have no less than eight scholarships available next year.

Oklahoma State

Hamilton had less than a month to recruit before national signing date after leaving Kentucky, where he was an assistant kept on by Eddie Sutton when he came to head up the Wildcat program. But that time frame was enough to give the Pokes their best recruiting success since the heydays of Henry Iba.

Hamilton got OSU fans talking when he signed a marvelous athlete in Jeffries (from Grant, Okla.), sharp-shooting Christian (Hutchinson Junior College) and one of the better prep players from the Los

Angeles area in Keith Malone.

The Pokes signed 10 players. Hansen had inked two high school seniors - 6-5 Byron Steward of Stamps, Ark., and 6-9 Jaime Cardrich of Long Beach, Calif. along with Seminole Junior College players Sylvester Kincheon (6-10) and Robert Smith (6-8) in November. Kincheon is definitely the best of the bunch. (NOTE: Hamilton later announced Kincheon may attend OSU, but the two still hope to iron out their difficulties.)

And then Hamilton came to town to get things in order. From the state of Oklahoma he signed the 6-6 Jeffries, 6-51/2 William Woods of Midwest City Carl Albert and 6-4 Chris Gaffney of Tulsa

Washington.

Jeffries was the big catch. He is extremely strong and is a great athlete. Some say he will be a better player in college than the more highly regarded Pritchard. Jeffries averaged 22.1 points and 10.3 rebounds. Woods averaged 22.3 points and 9.8 rebounds and Gaffney scored at an 8.2

Hamilton got in late on Christian, but still persuaded him to come to Stillwater. If this 6-6 second guard can take care of grade problems, he will be an instant starter. Basketball Times named him third-team junior college All-American. He averaged 19.9 points and shot 54 percent from the field.

Two high school players who will be given a long look are point guard Derrick Davis from Washington, D.C., and Malone. "Davis is an excellent prospect," said one recruiter. "He should start at

point guard as a freshman."

Malone averaged 20.4 points and 11.5 rebounds in making the Los Angeles Times All-City squad. "He's a good player," says Coleman. "He shoots the ball well. I rank him among the top 15 to 20 in the Los Angeles area." •

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Name/School	CL	G	CAR	GAIN	LOSS	NET	ATT	YDS	PLAYS	YDS	YD/PL	TDR	YD/RAT
Mike Norseth, Kansas	SR	12	135	504	285	219	408	2995	543	3214	5.9	18	267.8
Jamelle Holieway, Oklahoma	FR	9	161	990	129	861	58	517	219	1378	6.3	14	153.1
Ronnie Williams, Oklahoma State	SO	10	56	112	185	-73	248	1506	304	1433	4.7	7	143.3
Alex Espinoza, Iowa State	JR	- 11	91	178	311	-133	330	1704	421	1571	3.7	10	142.8
Thurman Thomas, Oklahoma State	SO	11	302	1609	56	1553	2	6	304	1559	5.1	17	141.7
Marlon Adler, Missouri	SR	11	80	284	162	122	183	1258	263	1380	5.2	8	125.5
Doug Dubose, Nebraska	JR	10	203	1188	27	1161	0	0	203	1161	5.7	8	116.1
Darrell Wallace, Missouri	SO	11	226	1145	25	1120	1	0	227	1120	4.9	5	101.8
Warren Seitz, Missouri	SR	10	55	182	172	10	144	886	199	896	4.5	5	89.6
Mark Hatcher, Colorado	SO	10	125	613	74	539	51	325	176	864	4.9	11	86.4
McCathorn Clayton, Nebraska	SO	11	83	399	109	290	78	602	161	892	5.5	8	81.1
Tom Rathman, Nebraska	SR	11	118	884	3	881	0	0	118	881	7.5	8	80.1
Paul Miles, Nebraska	SR	10	102	706	17	689	0	0	102	689	6.8	5	68.9
Lydell Carr, Oklahoma	SO	11	169	746	11	735	0	0	169	735	4.3	4	66.8
Anthony Weatherspoon, Colorado	SO	11	140	572	13	569	0	0	140	569	4.1	2	51.7
Ron Brown, Colorado	SR	11	90	538	14	524	0	0	90	524	5.8	2	47.6
Leon Perry, Oklahoma	FR	11	92	524	6	518	0	0	92	518	5.6	5	47.1
Andrew Jackson, Iowa State	JR	10	113	448	33	415	0	0	113	415	3.7	2	41.5
John Kendrick, Kansas State	SR	9	80	376	22	354	0	0	80	354	4.4	0	39.3
Travis Turner, Nebraska	SR	11	24	60	56	4	55	418	79	422	5.3	4	38.4
Eric Mitchel, Oklahoma	FR	9	43	345	63	282	5	44	48	326	6.8	3	36.2
Ray Wilson, Kansas State	SO	11	112	381	14	367	0	0	112	367	3.3	0	33.4
Todd Moody, Kansas State	JR	11	94	353	10	343	1	0	95	343	3.6	0	31.2
Kirk Thomas, Iowa State	SR	11	103	346	20	326	0	0	103	326	3.2	0	29.6
Eric McCarty, Colorado	SO	11	71	313	0	313	0	0	71	313	4.4	0	28.5

1985 Defensive Statistics

Linemen	UT	AT	π	T-L	Player, Team	UT	AT	TT	T-L
Player, Team		7.7	7.7			7.2	100		
Lester Williams, ISU	34	41	75	4-8	Don DeLuzio, CU	77	64	141	7-14
Greg Liter, ISU	38	31	69	4-3	Willie Piess, KU	110	81	191	11-49
Kevin Humphrey, KSU	45	36	81	19-101	Rick Bredesen, KU	66	55	121	5-14
Jeffery Hurd, KSU	34	28	62	10-39	Buck Stinson, MU	40	34	74	3-9
Leslie O'Neal, OSU	52	56	108	15-69	Steve Vandegrift, MU	35	37	72	5-23
John Washington, OSU	47	36	83	9-32	Marc Munford, NU	43	24	67	1-3
Curt Koch, CU	37	29	66	4-10	Mike Knox, NU	29	36	65	1-2
Don Fairbanks, CU	32	31	63	2-8	Brian Bosworth, OU	73	58	131	7-35
Eldridge Avery, KU	37	27	64	5-29	Dante Jones, OU	42	29	71	3-5
Phil Forte, KU	34	29	63	11-30	2.2.000				
Dick Chapura, MU	66	32	98	12-72	Backs				
Darryl Darling, MU	18	26	44	5-19	Anthony Mayze, ISU	30	30	60	1-3
Rick Klohmann, MU	26	18	44	7-23	Terrency Anthony, ISU	33	12	45	2-8
Jim Skow, NU	43	10	53	25-163	Barton Hundley, KSU	75	61	136	1-1
Danny Noonan, NU	33	14	47	14-78	Brad Lambert, KSU	52	29	81	1-1
Kevin Murphy, OU	41	52	93	8-33	Mark Moore, OSU	56	35	91	1-2
Darrell Reed, OU	34	35	69	3-10	Mike Hudson, OSU	50	14	64	3-11
And the same of the same					Mickey Pruitt, CU	38	25	63	2-7
					Rodney Rogers, CU	46	17	63	2-3
Linebackers					Travis Hardy, KU	41	18	59	2-5
Dennis Gibson, ISU	56	40	96	5-12	Danny Crossman, KU	31	17	48	1-1
Jeff Braswell, ISU	54	28	82	9-21	Erick McMillan, MU	80	29	109	8-28
David Wallace, KSU	31	35	66	5-10	Tony Facinelli, MU	37	20	57	2-11
Tim MacDonald, KSU	17	49	66	1-5	Brian Washington, NU	23	14	37	3-8
James Ham, OSU	56	78	134	1-1	Chris Carr, NU	26	5	31	0-0
Ricky Adams, OSU	51	49	100	6-10	Tony Rayburn, OU	24	13	37	1-2
Barry Remington, CU	83	79	162	4-7	Derrick White, OU	26	6	32	0-0

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